



DARK NIGHTS

DEATH
METAL

1

MULTIVERSES'S END



AGES 13+

TYNION IV
GEDEON
SPICER

**IN A WEB OF CONSPIRACIES,
WHO IS THE MAN
BEHIND THE MASK?**



RORSCHACH

TOM KING JORGE FORNÉS DAVE STEWART

12 ISSUES

AGES 17+



**BLACK
LABEL**

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EARTH-3.
CENTROPOLIS.
THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERIKA.

MULTIVERSE'S END

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"IT'S BEAUTIFUL, ISN'T IT?"

"THE *SOUND*, I MEAN.
I'VE BEEN LISTENING
TO THE HUM OF IT
FOR WEEKS NOW.

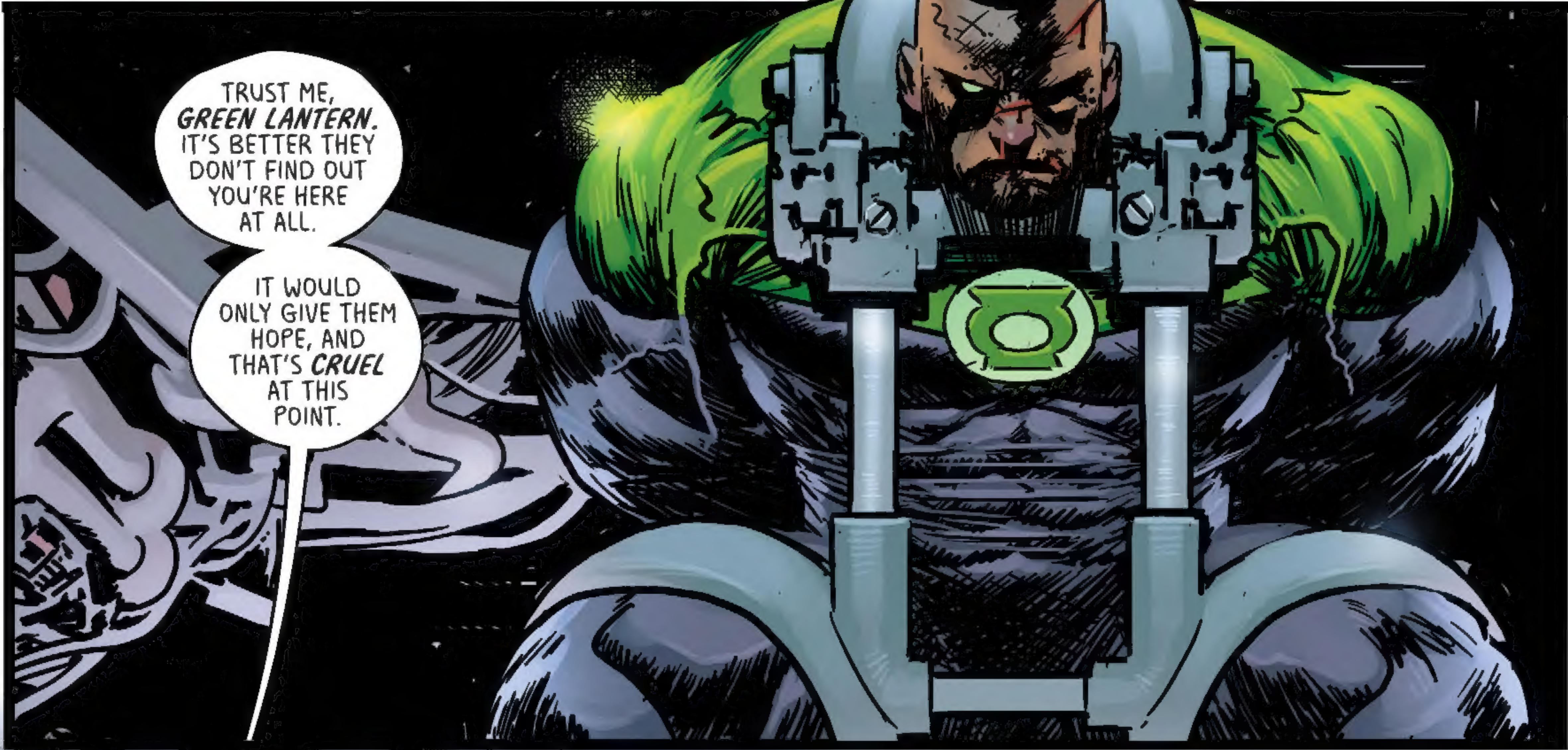
"ALL THE FEAR AND
AGONY OF THE LITTLE
PEOPLE OF YOUR SAD
EARTH RINGING FORTH TO
KEEP *PERPETUA* POWERED
AS SHE *DESTROYS*
UNIVERSE AFTER UNIVERSE.

"ALL OF THEM WONDERING WHY
THEY HAVEN'T BEEN SAVED YET.

"CALLING OUT OVER AND
OVER FOR THEIR *HEROES*."



BUT OF COURSE, THEY'RE MUCH TOO **STUPID** TO UNDERSTAND THEY'VE STEPPED THROUGH TO THE DARK SIDE OF THE MIRROR.



TRUST ME, **GREEN LANTERN**. IT'S BETTER THEY DON'T FIND OUT YOU'RE HERE AT ALL.

IT WOULD ONLY GIVE THEM HOPE, AND THAT'S **CRUEL** AT THIS POINT.



GOOD **NEVER** PROSPERS ON EARTH-3.

THE CRIME SYNDICATE HAS **ALWAYS** SEEN TO THAT.



HERE'S A GOOD EXAMPLE...



...THIS CHAMPAGNE COSTS TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS A BOTTLE. IT WAS A BRIBE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER OF SOME HORRIBLE LITTLE COUNTRY, SO WE WOULDN'T KILL HIS FAMILY.

IT DIDN'T **STOP** US, OF COURSE, BUT I RAIDED HIS WINE CELLAR AFTER WE DID THE JOB.

YOU'RE DISGUSTING.

AH, IT SPEAKS. GOOD. I WANT YOU TO UNDERSTAND HOW THOROUGHLY YOU'VE ALREADY **LOST**.

"IT DOESN'T TAKE A GENIUS TO SEE
WHAT YOU HEROES HAVE PLANNED.

"PERPETUA, MOTHER OF THE MULTIVERSE,
HAS SIDED WITH THE MONSTERS OF THE
DARK MULTIVERSE TO HELP HER RESHAPE
ALL OF REALITY IN HER OWN IMAGE.

"THERE ARE *TUNING
FORKS* PLANTED IN THE
REMAINING MULTIVERSE
WORLDS THAT BEST
MATCH HER DARK
IDEOLOGY.

EARTH-3.

"EACH OF THOSE TUNING FORKS IS
CAPTURING THE PSYCHIC ENERGY OF
PEOPLE GATHERED FROM EARTH-0,
THE *CENTER* OF THE MULTIVERSE.

EARTH-X.

"THEIR AGONY KEEPS
HER POWERFUL ENOUGH
TO FINISH THE JOB, TO
DESTROY UNIVERSE
AFTER UNIVERSE.

"TO TEAR DOWN THE ORRERY
OF WORLDS AND START AGAIN
FROM SCRATCH.

EARTH-29.

"FROM WHAT
I UNDERSTAND,
THERE ARE ONLY
SIX EARTHS LEFT
IN THE
MULTIVERSE.

EARTH-43.

EARTH-50.

"AND YOURS HAS BECOME JUST
AS TWISTED AS ANY OF OURS."



NOW, YOU AND ALL YOUR GRANDSTANDING, CHEST-POUNDING HERO TYPES--YOUR PLAN IS OBVIOUS ENOUGH. YOU'VE MANAGED TO SCROUNGE UP THE LAST HEROES OF THE MULTIVERSE. **JUSTICE INCARNATE.**

YOU'RE TRYING TO SAVE THE PEOPLE OF YOUR WORLD, AND DESTROY THE TUNING FORKS. YOU WANT TO CUT PERPETUA'S POWER RIGHT AT THE SOURCE.

"YOU LED A TEAM HERE, TO EARTH-3, AND I'M BETTING THERE ARE **OTHER** TEAMS ON EACH OF THE **OTHER** WORLDS RIGHT NOW. IT'S A SIMULTANEOUS MULTI-EARTH ATTACK.

"BUT IT'S GOING TO **FAIL**. PERPETUA HAS ALREADY CALLED TO HER ALLIES ON EARTH-0 FOR REINFORCEMENTS. WHEN THEY ARRIVE, THEY'LL WIPE YOU OFF THE FACE OF EXISTENCE."



THIS GUN IS FROM **QWARD**, AT THE **HEART** OF THE ANTI-MATTER UNIVERSE. ITS YELLOW BULLETS WILL RIP THROUGH YOUR LITTLE RING'S CONSTRUCTS LIKE THEY WERE **CREPE PAPER**.

IF I KILL YOU NOW, PERPETUA WILL WIN. THE MULTIVERSE AS WE KNOW IT WILL **END**, AND BE **REBORN** IN HER IMAGE.

BUT...THAT'S WHERE I HAVE TROUBLE.

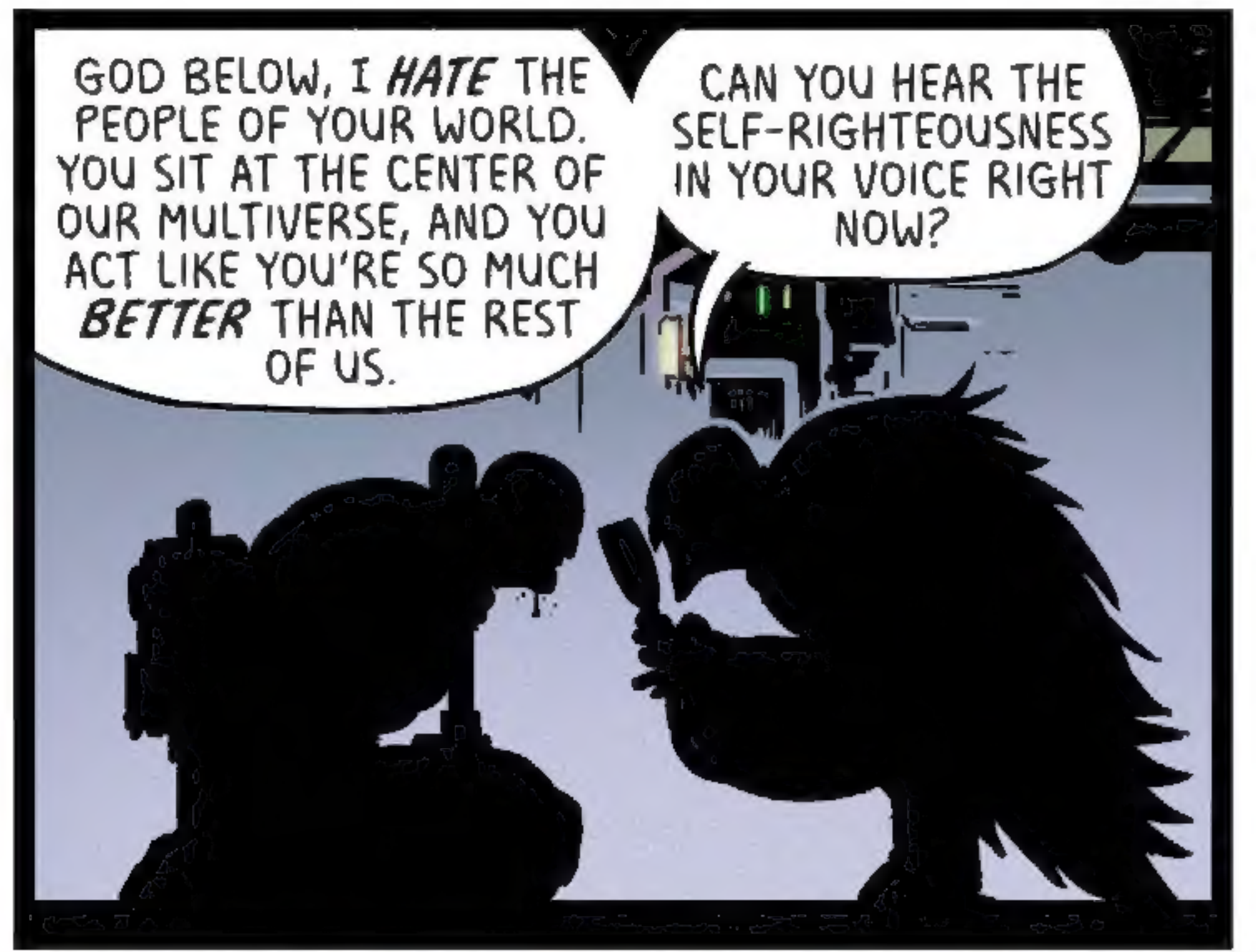
I AM THE GREATEST STRATEGIC MIND OF MY WORLD, AND I HAVE A SINKING SUSPICION THAT IF PERPETUA WINS, WE **ALL** LOSE.

THERE WON'T BE ANY LITTLE PRIME MINISTERS TO BULLY AROUND FOR TWO-THOUSAND-DOLLAR BOTTLES OF CHAMPAGNE.



THEN *HELP* US, DAMMIT! WITH THE CRIME SYNDICATE ON OUR SIDE, WE CAN TURN THE TIDE AGAINST PERPETUA. THERE'S A PLAN UNDERWAY ON MY EARTH.

IF THESE TOWERS COME DOWN IN TIME, WE CAN *STOP* HER.



GOD BELOW, I *HATE* THE PEOPLE OF YOUR WORLD. YOU SIT AT THE CENTER OF OUR MULTIVERSE, AND YOU ACT LIKE YOU'RE SO MUCH *BETTER* THAN THE REST OF US.

CAN YOU HEAR THE SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS IN YOUR VOICE RIGHT NOW?



IF YOU'RE NOT INTERESTED IN HELPING, THEN YOU WOULD HAVE ALREADY KILLED ME.

OH, I DON'T *WANT* TO HELP YOU. IF I COULD SIT BACK COMFORTABLY ON THIS WORLD AND WATCH ALL OF YOUR PEOPLE BURN ALIVE, I WOULD DO IT. I WOULD MAKE POPCORN.



BUT THIS IS A *PERSONAL* MATTER.



I KNOW HOW THE MULTIVERSE IS *MEANT* TO WORK.



AND *OWLMAN* IS *SUPPOSED* TO BE THE DARKEST REFLECTION OF BATMAN IN THE MULTIVERSE...

...NOT THAT *THING* FROM REALITY'S DARK UNDERBELLY!



YOU MIGHT HELP US STOP THE DESTRUCTION OF THE MULTIVERSE BECAUSE YOU'RE FEELING *PETTY*?



LOSE THE TONE, LANTERN. I'VE BEEN TO *EACH* OF THE TOWERS. I'VE BOOBY-TRAPPED THEM ALL, WEEKS AGO. WITH THE PRESS OF A BUTTON, I CAN BRING THEM *ALL* DOWN AND GIVE YOU YOUR VICTORY.



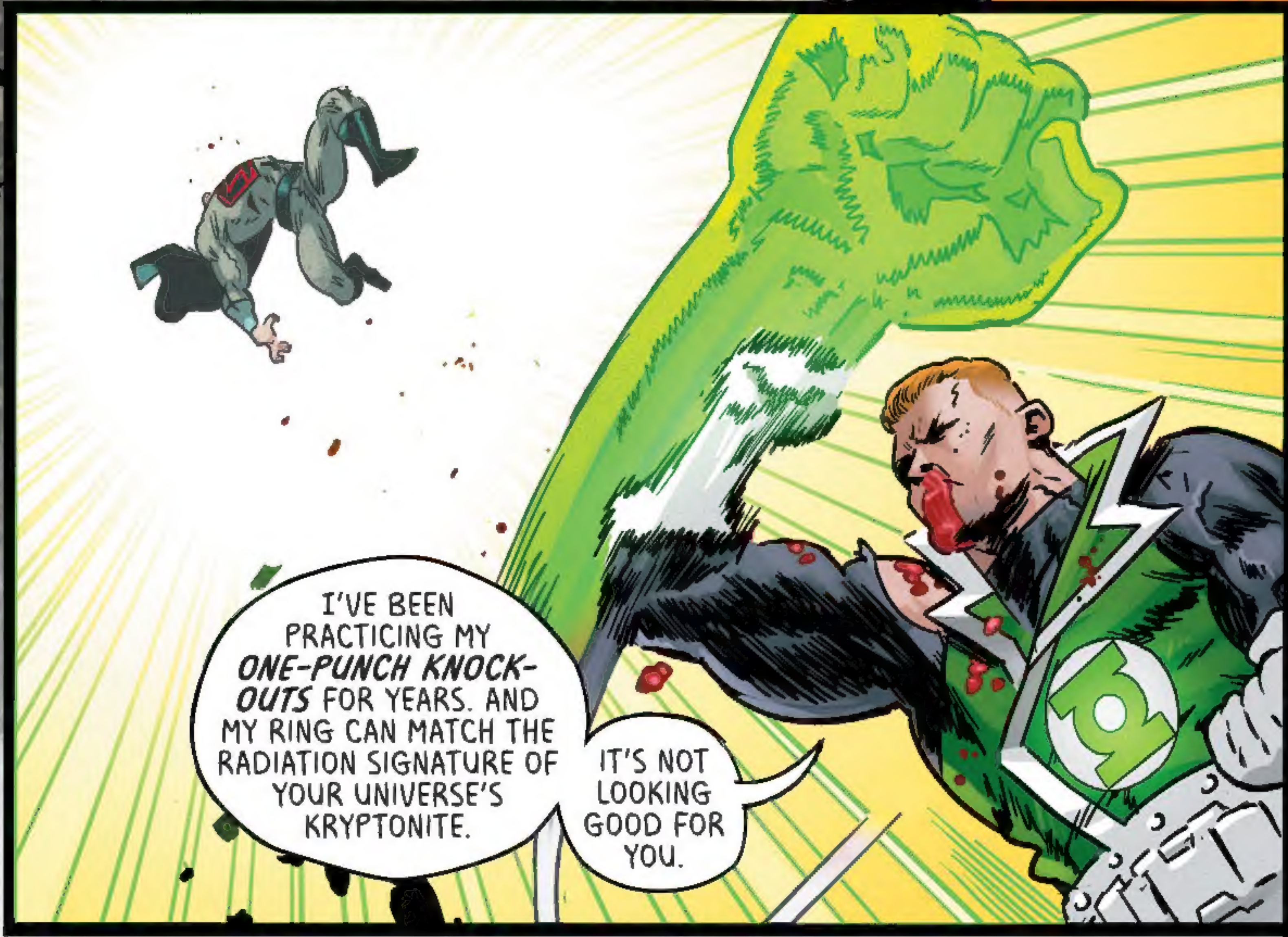
BUT I'M GOING TO NEED *ASSURANCES*!

EARTH-X. DETROIT.



ANY LAST WORDS BEFORE I CRUSH THE MEAT OUT OF YOUR SUBHUMAN SKULL?

YEAH. EAT DUST, YOU NAZI PIECE OF @#\$\$@!



I'VE BEEN PRACTICING MY **ONE-PUNCH KNOCK-OUTS** FOR YEARS. AND MY RING CAN MATCH THE RADIATION SIGNATURE OF YOUR UNIVERSE'S KRYPTONITE.

IT'S NOT LOOKING GOOD FOR YOU.



KID FLASH!
WE NEED TO GET **THOUSANDS** MORE OFF WORLD BEFORE WE CAN DESTROY THE TOWER. MAYBE LET'S HURRY THINGS UP?!



HURRY?!

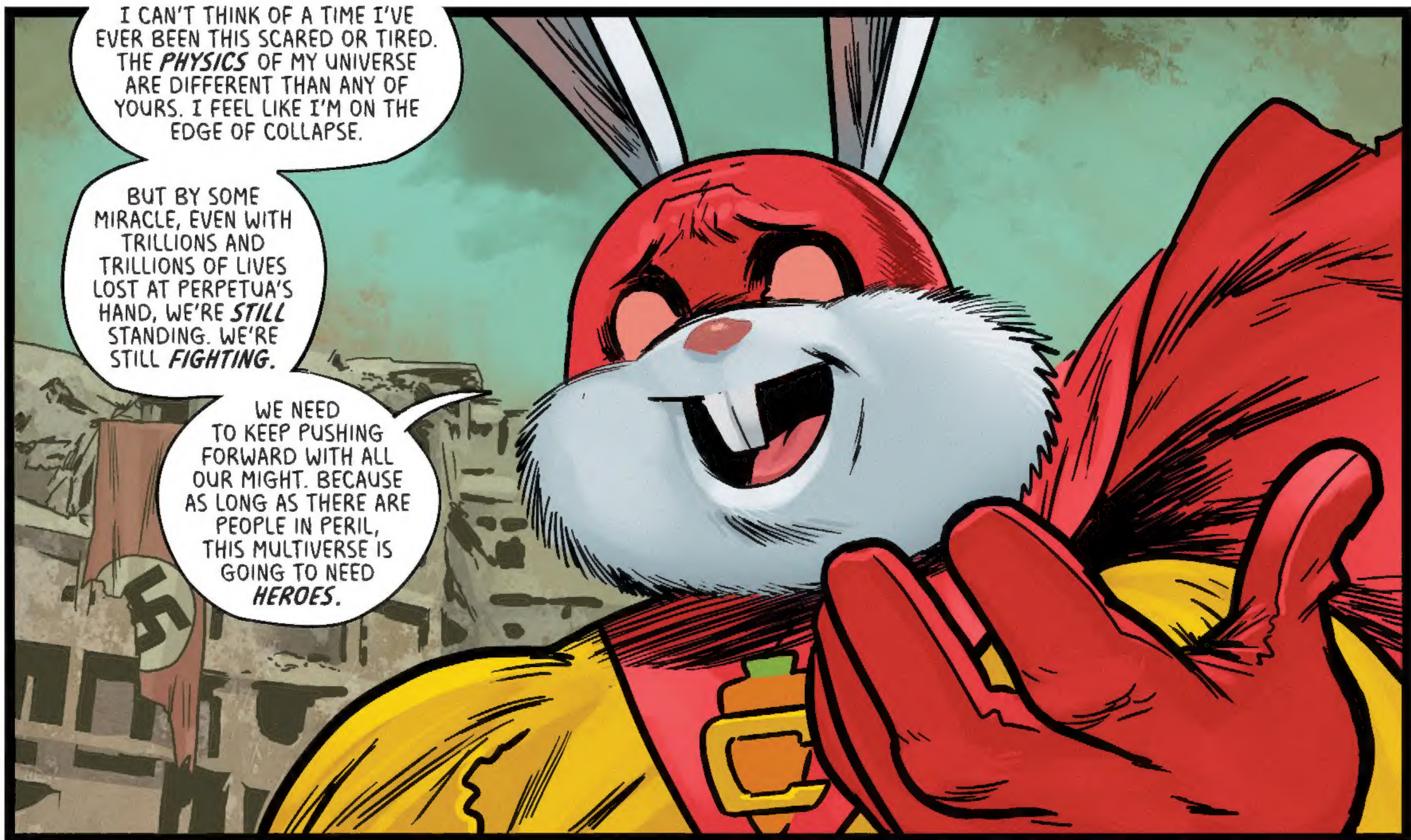


I'M RUNNING SO FAST, I CAN HEAR THE VOICES OF THE DEAD FLASHES OF THE MULTIVERSE SCREAMING MY NAME FROM THE SPEED FORCE, SO DON'T YOU BARK ORDERS AT ME.

YOU STILL **HAVE** AN EARTH. I LOST MY ENTIRE UNIVERSE. ALL OF MY FRIENDS AND FAMILY, **GONE!**



IT'S A DARK MOMENT FOR ALL OF US, IRIS.



I CAN'T THINK OF A TIME I'VE EVER BEEN THIS SCARED OR TIRED. THE *PHYSICS* OF MY UNIVERSE ARE DIFFERENT THAN ANY OF YOURS. I FEEL LIKE I'M ON THE EDGE OF COLLAPSE.

BUT BY SOME MIRACLE, EVEN WITH TRILLIONS AND TRILLIONS OF LIVES LOST AT PERPETUA'S HAND, WE'RE *STILL* STANDING. WE'RE *STILL* *FIGHTING*.

WE NEED TO KEEP PUSHING FORWARD WITH ALL OUR MIGHT. BECAUSE AS LONG AS THERE ARE PEOPLE IN PERIL, THIS MULTIVERSE IS GOING TO NEED *HEROES*.

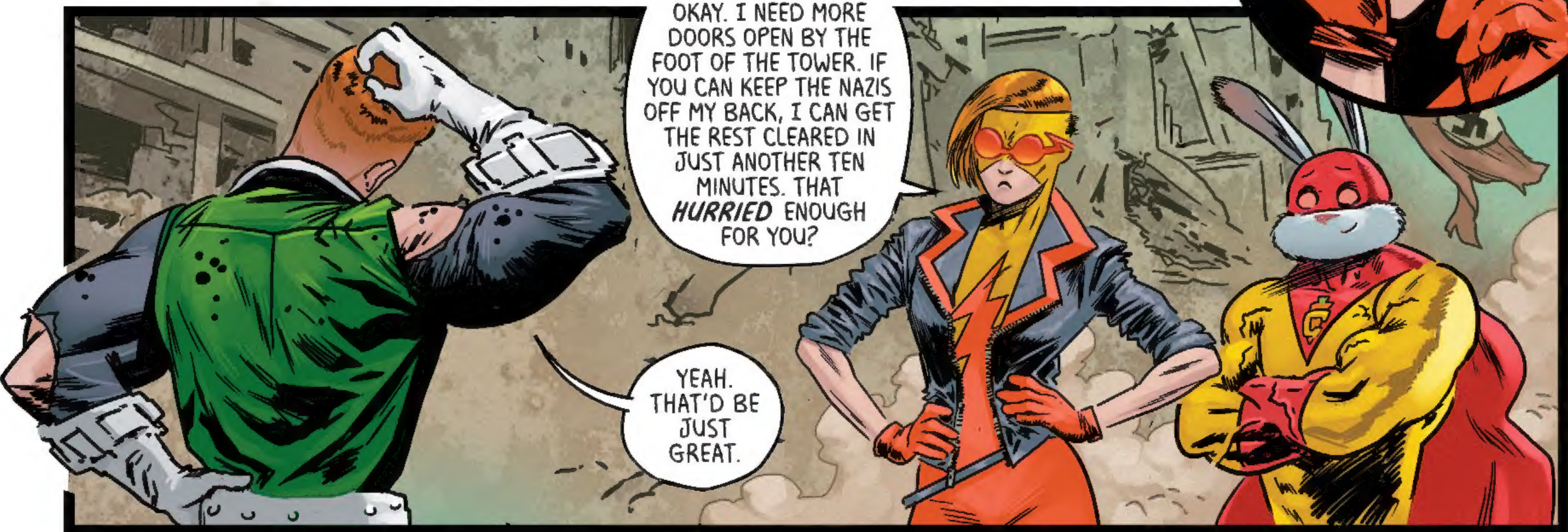


I KNOW YOU MISS YOUR FRIENDS, AND YOUR FAMILY. AND WE'LL HAVE TIME TO MOURN.



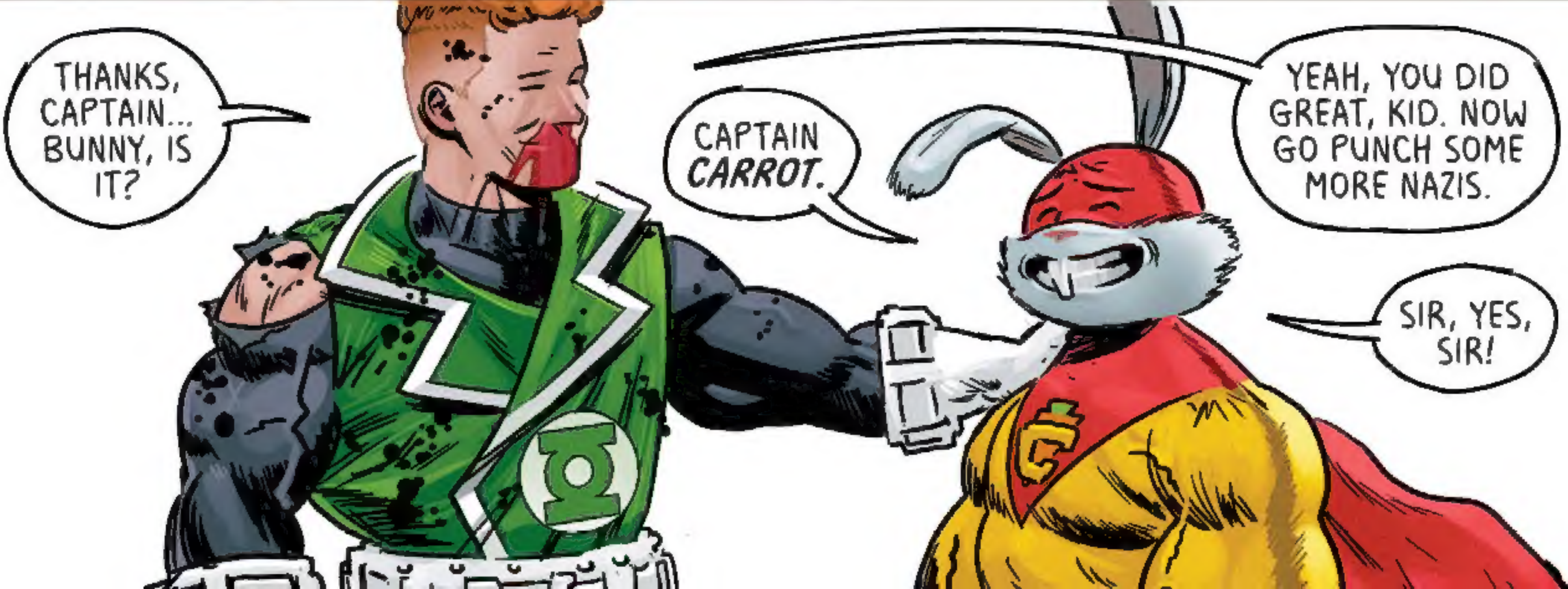
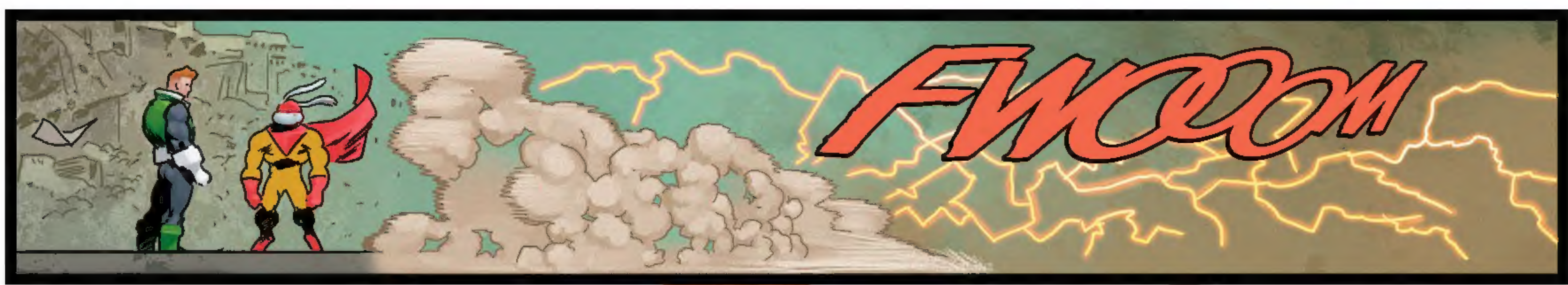
BUT RIGHT NOW A LOT OF INNOCENT PEOPLE *NEED* KID FLASH TO SAVE THE DAY. AND BY GOSH, I THINK SHE'S GOT IT IN HER TO SAVE EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THEM.

THANKS, CAP.



OKAY. I NEED MORE DOORS OPEN BY THE FOOT OF THE TOWER. IF YOU CAN KEEP THE NAZIS OFF MY BACK, I CAN GET THE REST CLEARED IN JUST ANOTHER TEN MINUTES. THAT *HURRIED* ENOUGH FOR YOU?

YEAH. THAT'D BE JUST GREAT.

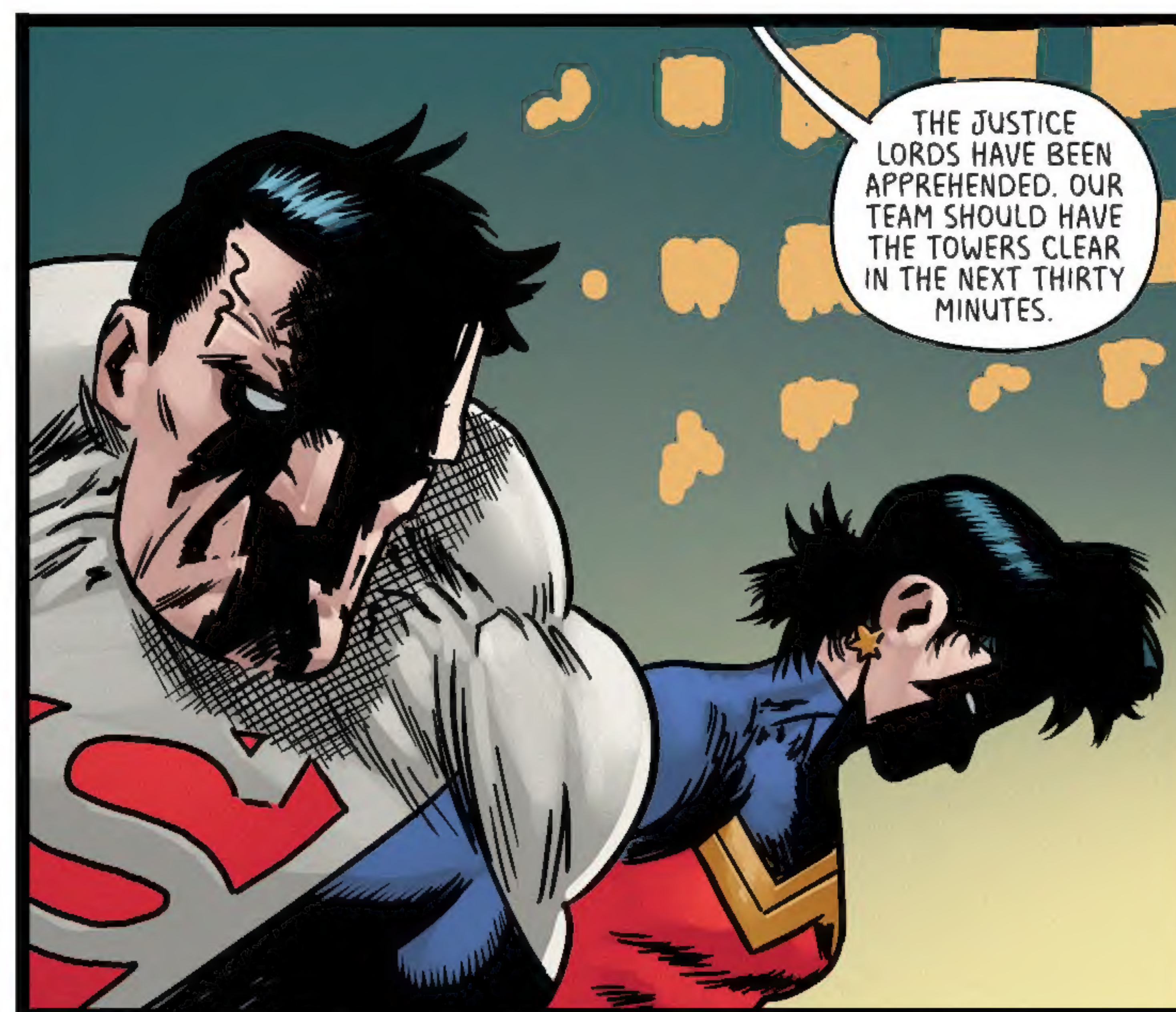
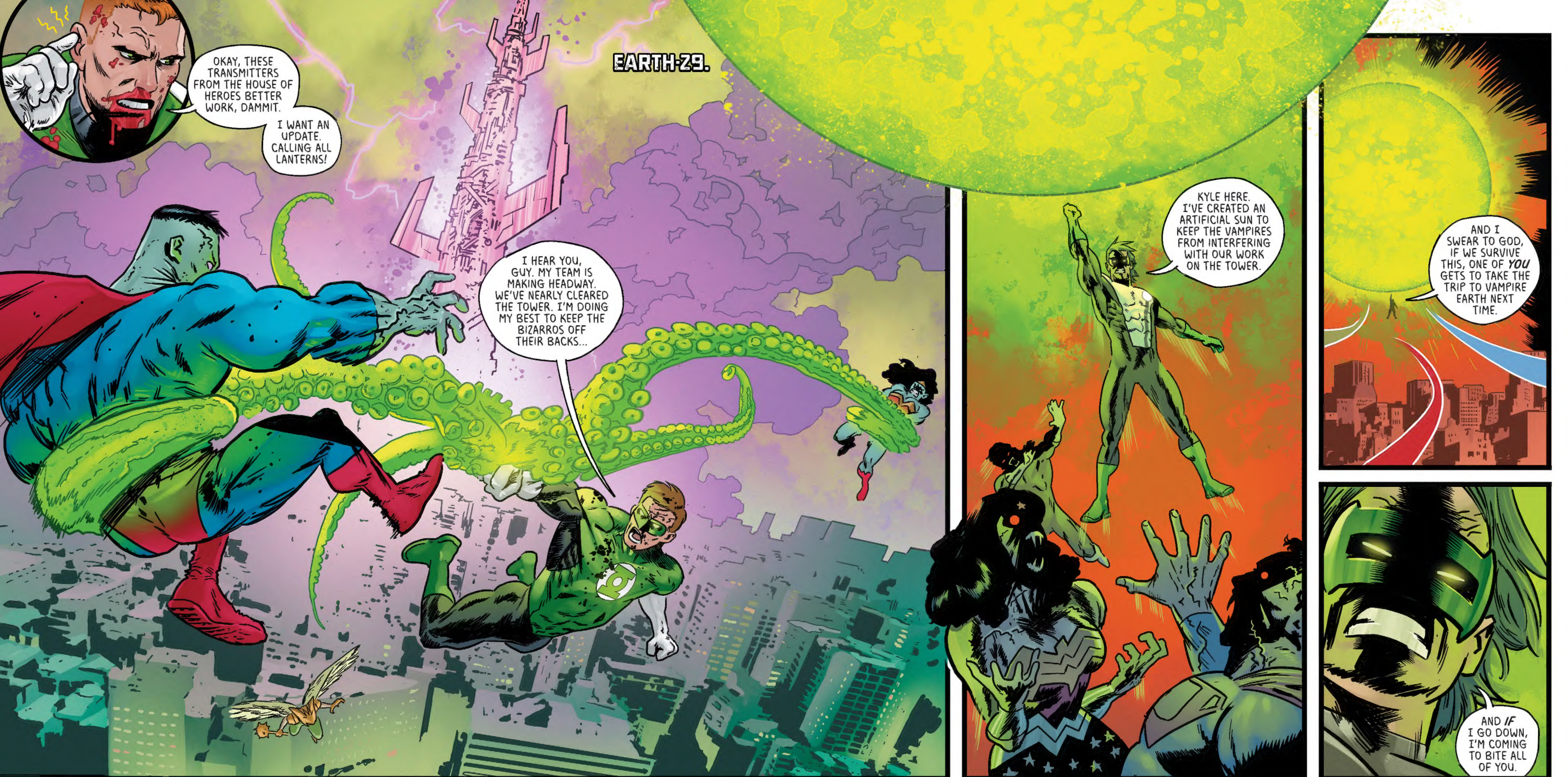


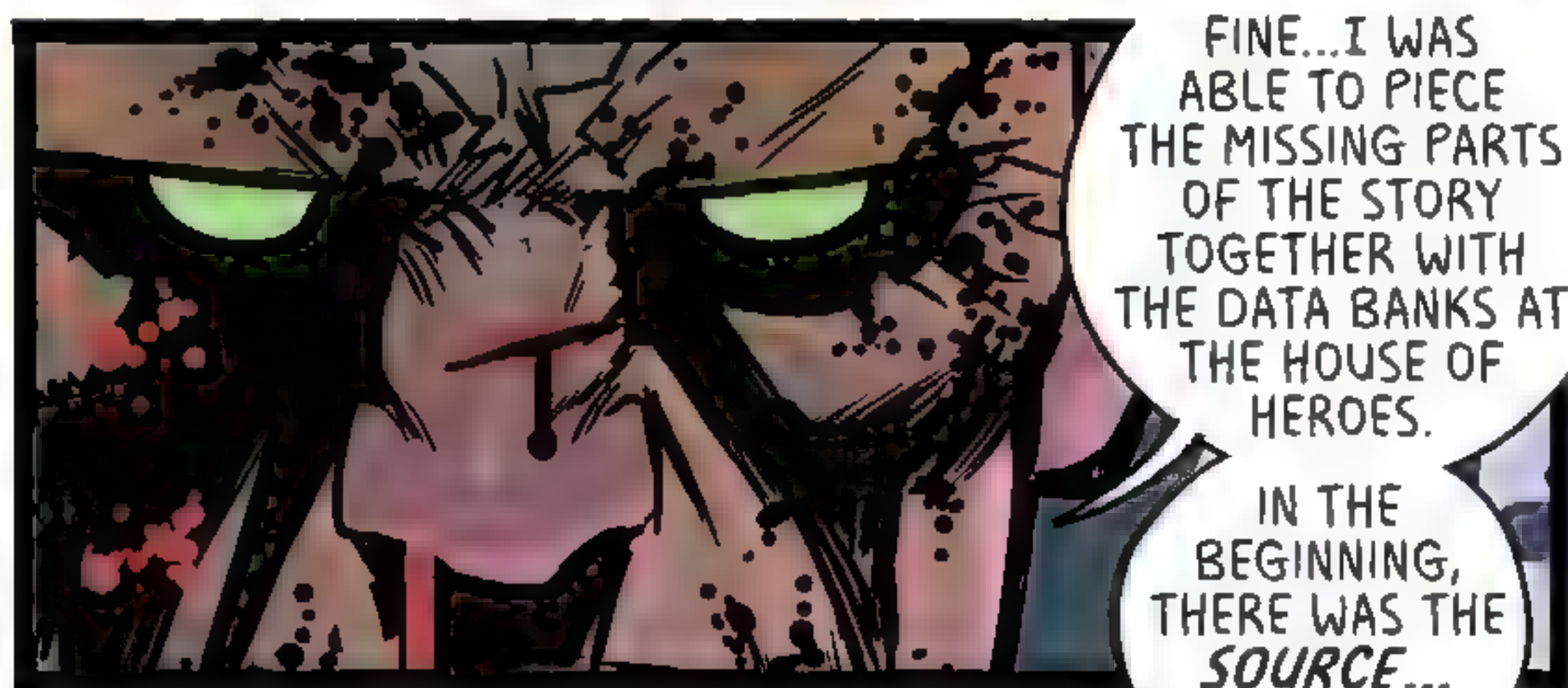
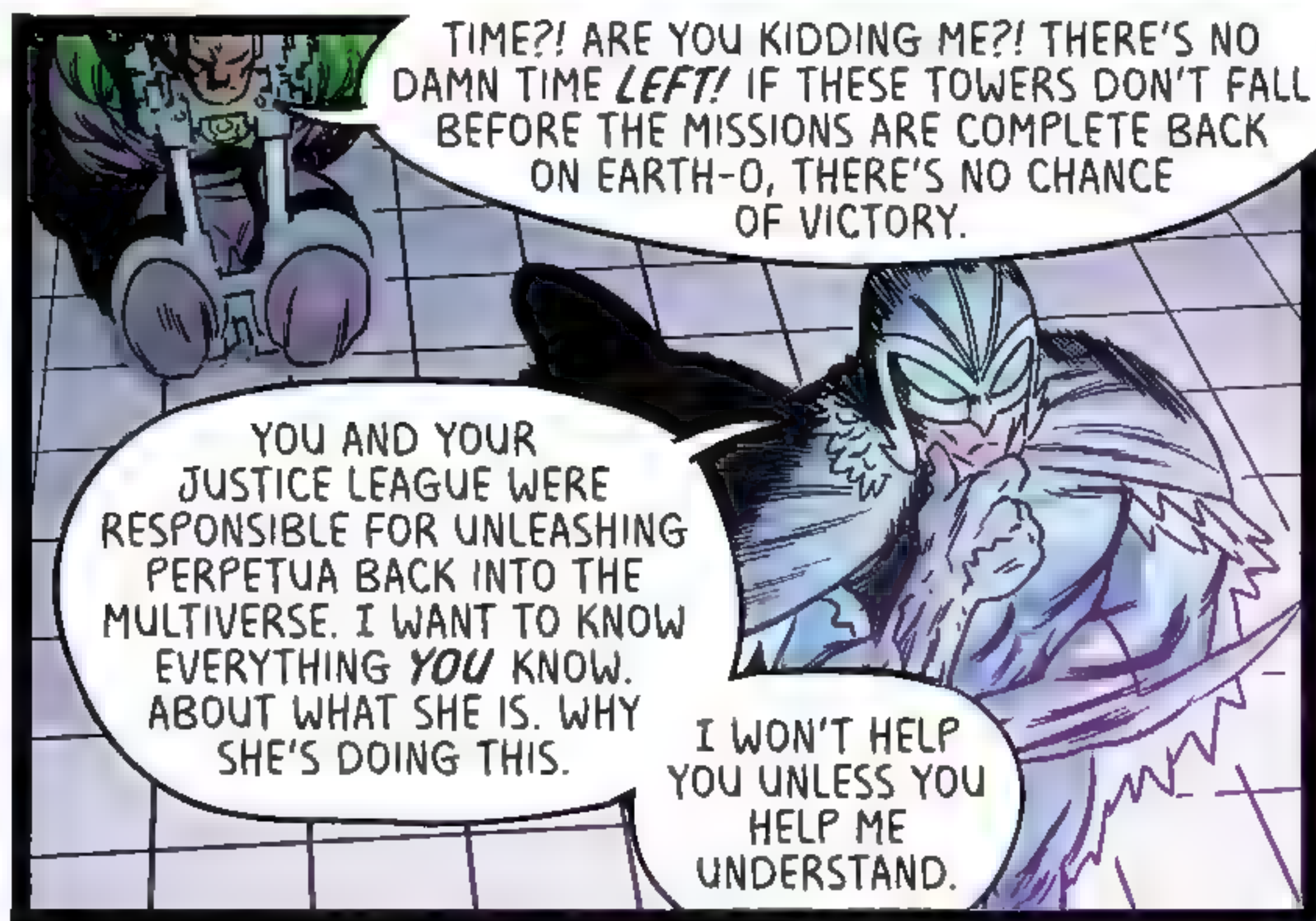
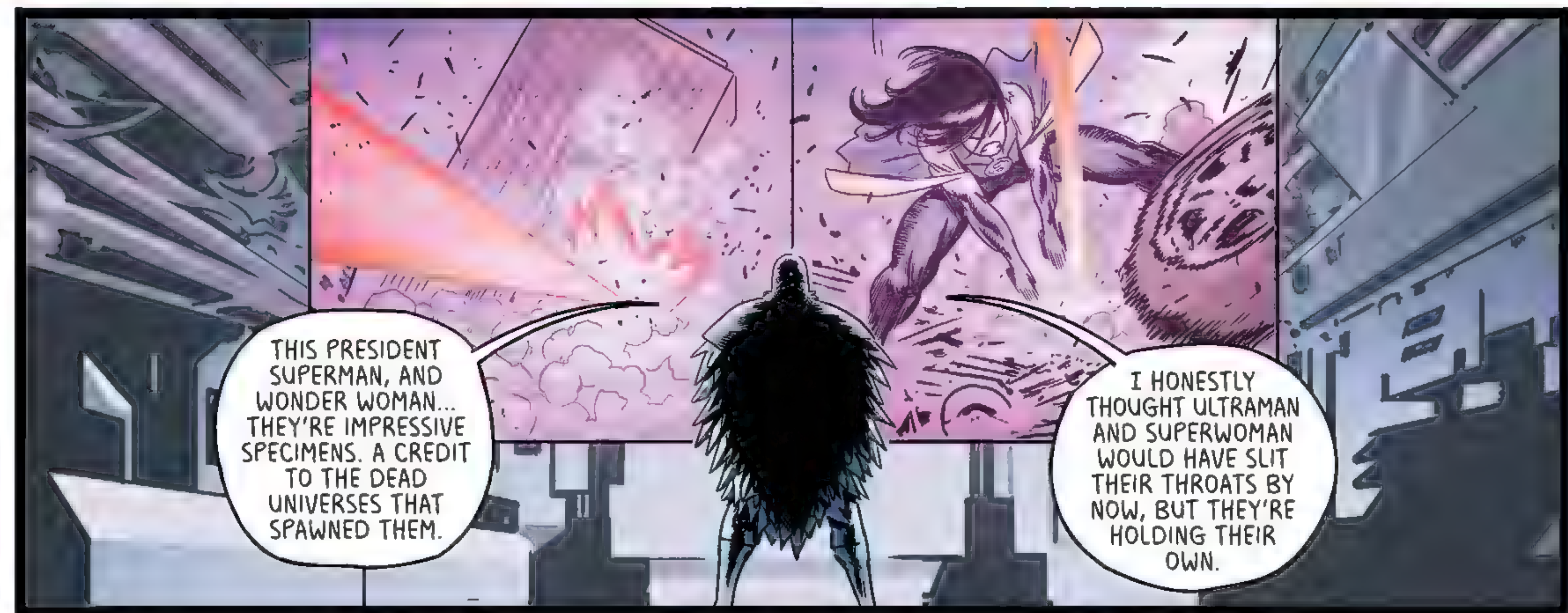
THANKS, CAPTAIN... BUNNY, IS IT?

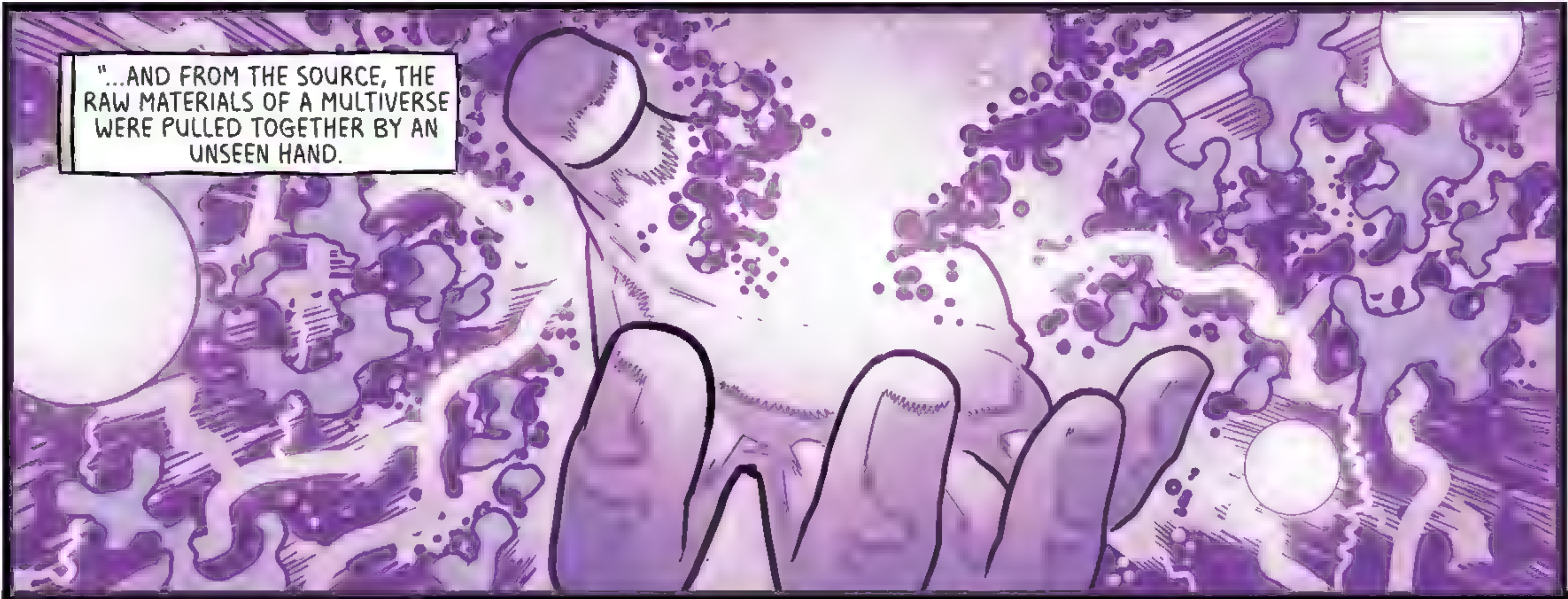
CAPTAIN CARROT.

YEAH, YOU DID GREAT, KID. NOW GO PUNCH SOME MORE NAZIS.

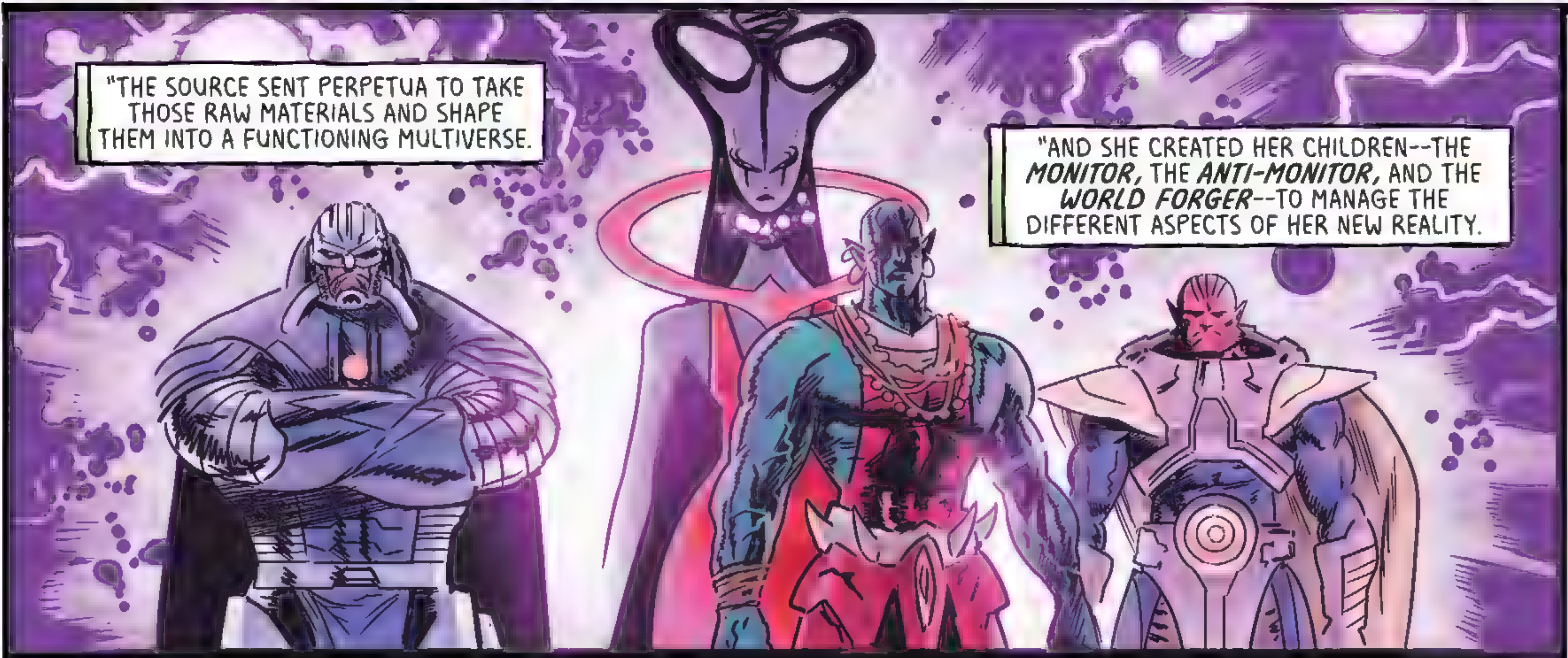
SIR, YES, SIR!





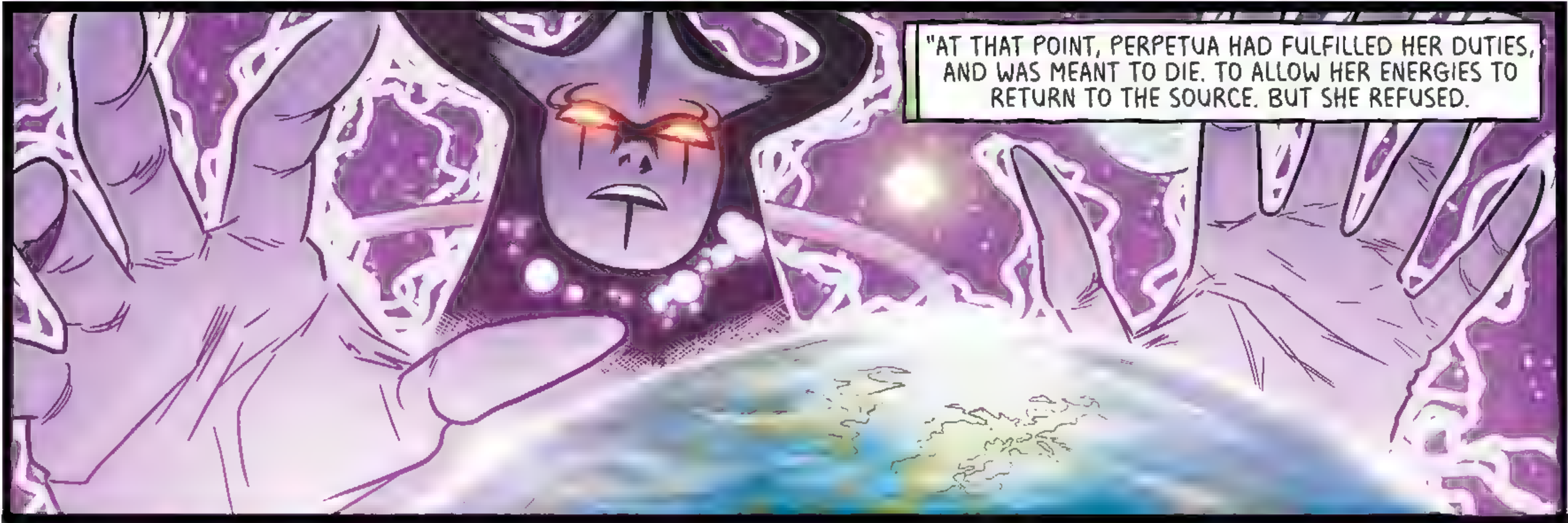


"...AND FROM THE SOURCE, THE RAW MATERIALS OF A MULTIVERSE WERE PULLED TOGETHER BY AN UNSEEN HAND.



"THE SOURCE SENT PERPETUA TO TAKE THOSE RAW MATERIALS AND SHAPE THEM INTO A FUNCTIONING MULTIVERSE.

"AND SHE CREATED HER CHILDREN--THE *MONITOR*, THE *ANTI-MONITOR*, AND THE *WORLD FORGER*--TO MANAGE THE DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF HER NEW REALITY.



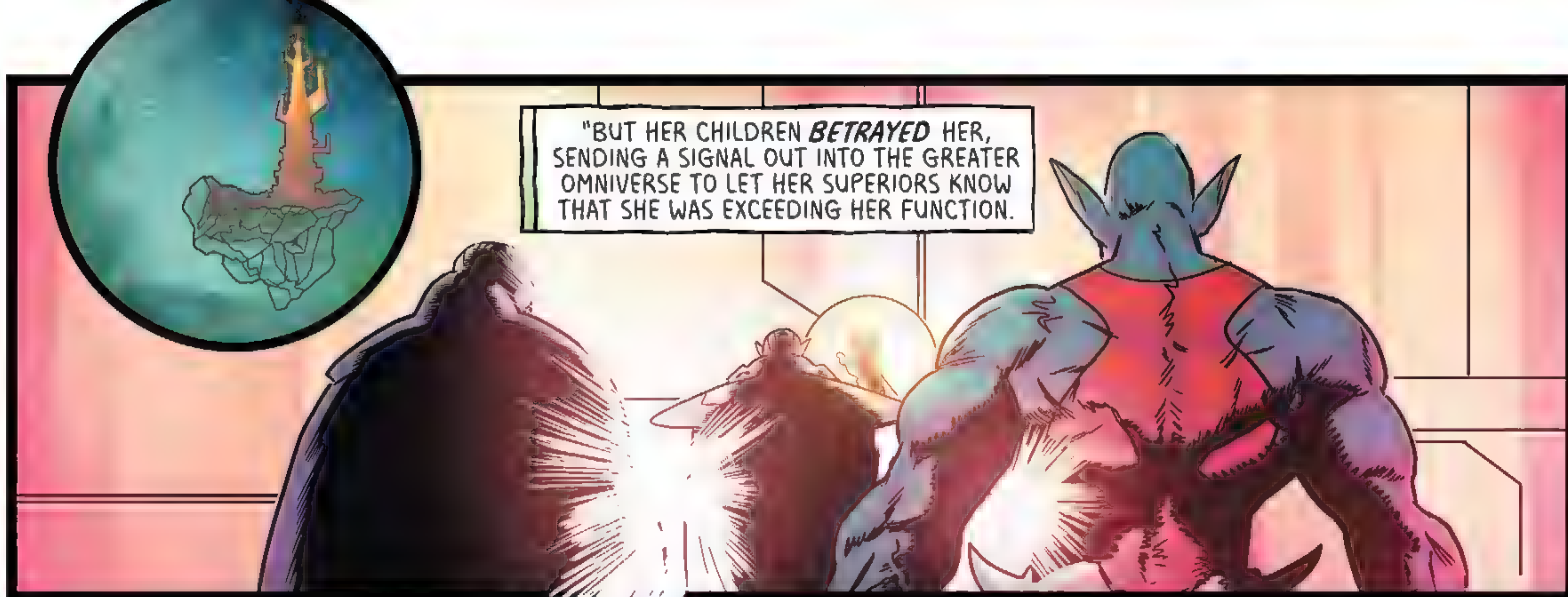
"AT THAT POINT, PERPETUA HAD FULFILLED HER DUTIES, AND WAS MEANT TO DIE. TO ALLOW HER ENERGIES TO RETURN TO THE SOURCE. BUT SHE REFUSED.



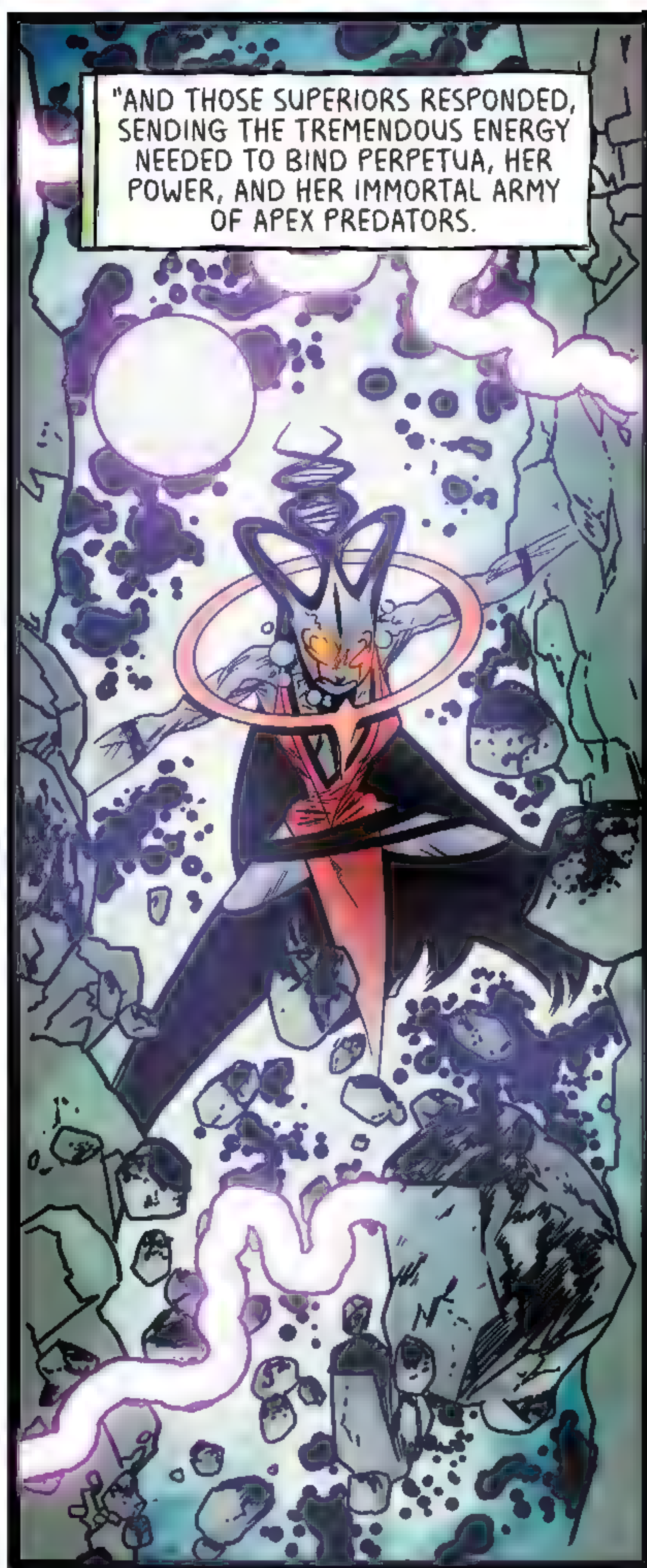
"AND SHE BEGAN TO *EXPERIMENT* ON THE MORTALS AT THE CENTER OF HER NEW MULTIVERSE. TRANSFORMING THEM INTO DEADLY *APEX PREDATORS*.



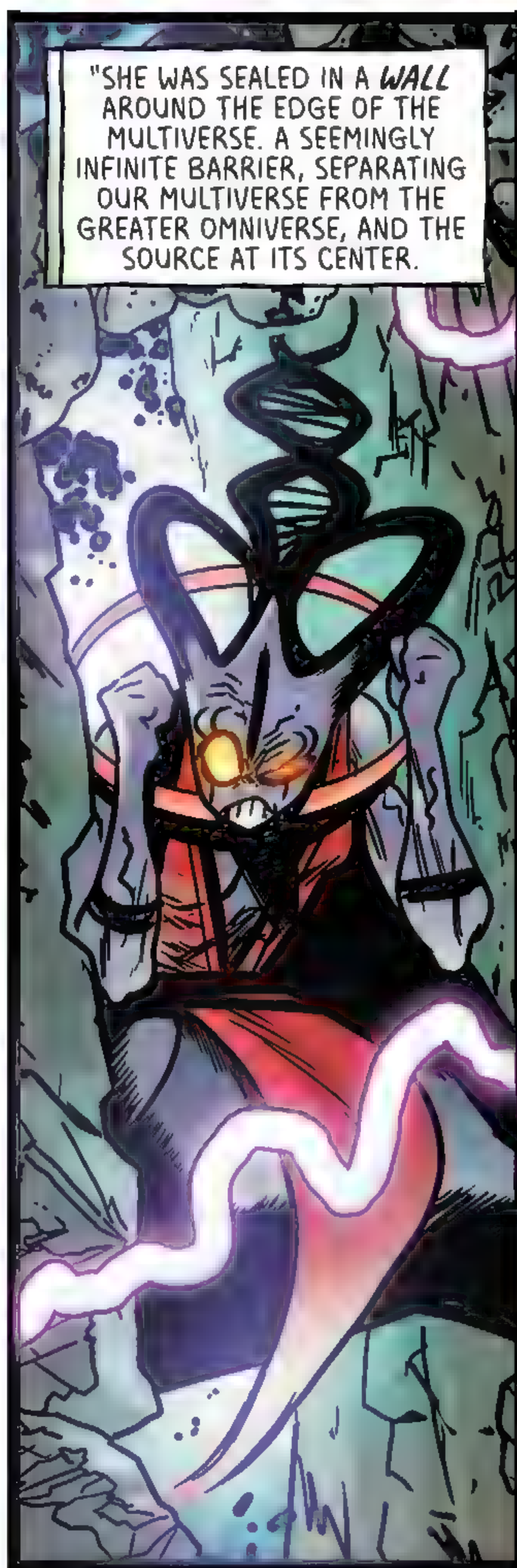
"HER PLAN WAS TO BUILD AN ARMY TO HEAD OFF ANYTHING THE SOURCE MIGHT SEND TO FORCE HER TO GIVE UP HER LIFE AND HER CONTROL OVER REALITY."



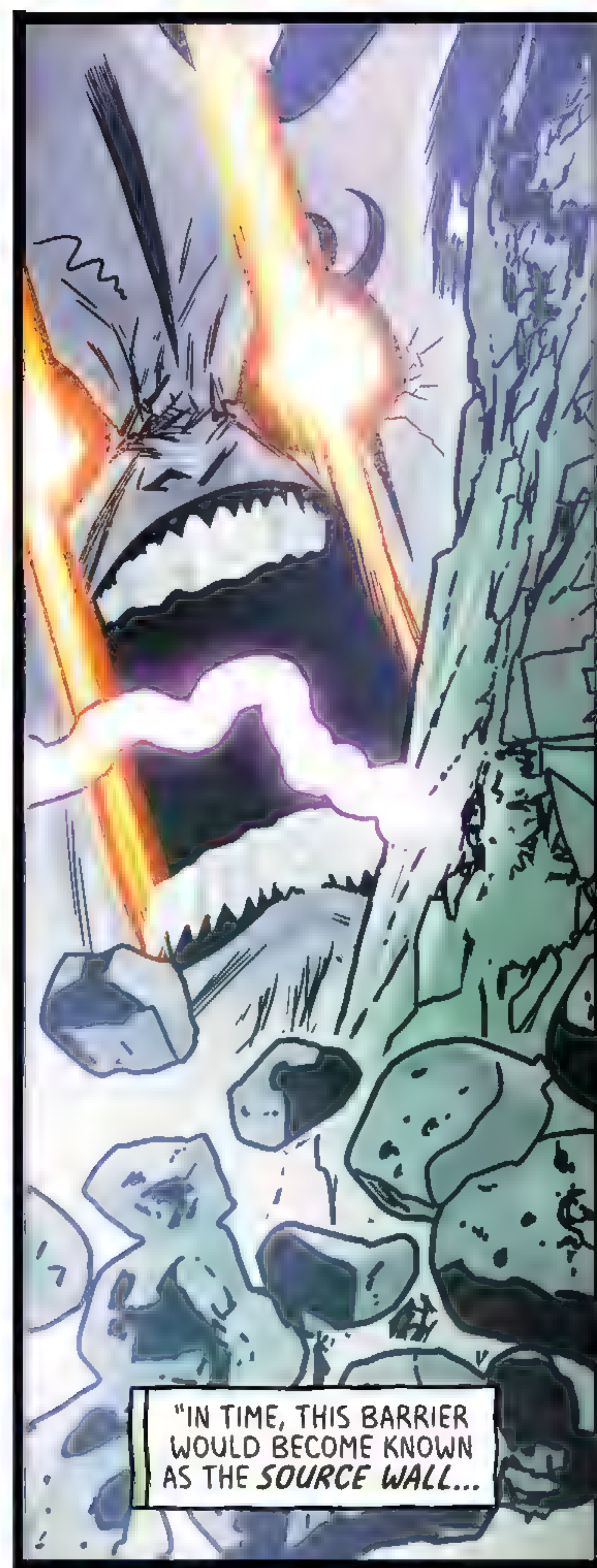
"BUT HER CHILDREN **BETRAYED** HER, SENDING A SIGNAL OUT INTO THE GREATER OMNIVERSE TO LET HER SUPERIORS KNOW THAT SHE WAS EXCEEDING HER FUNCTION.



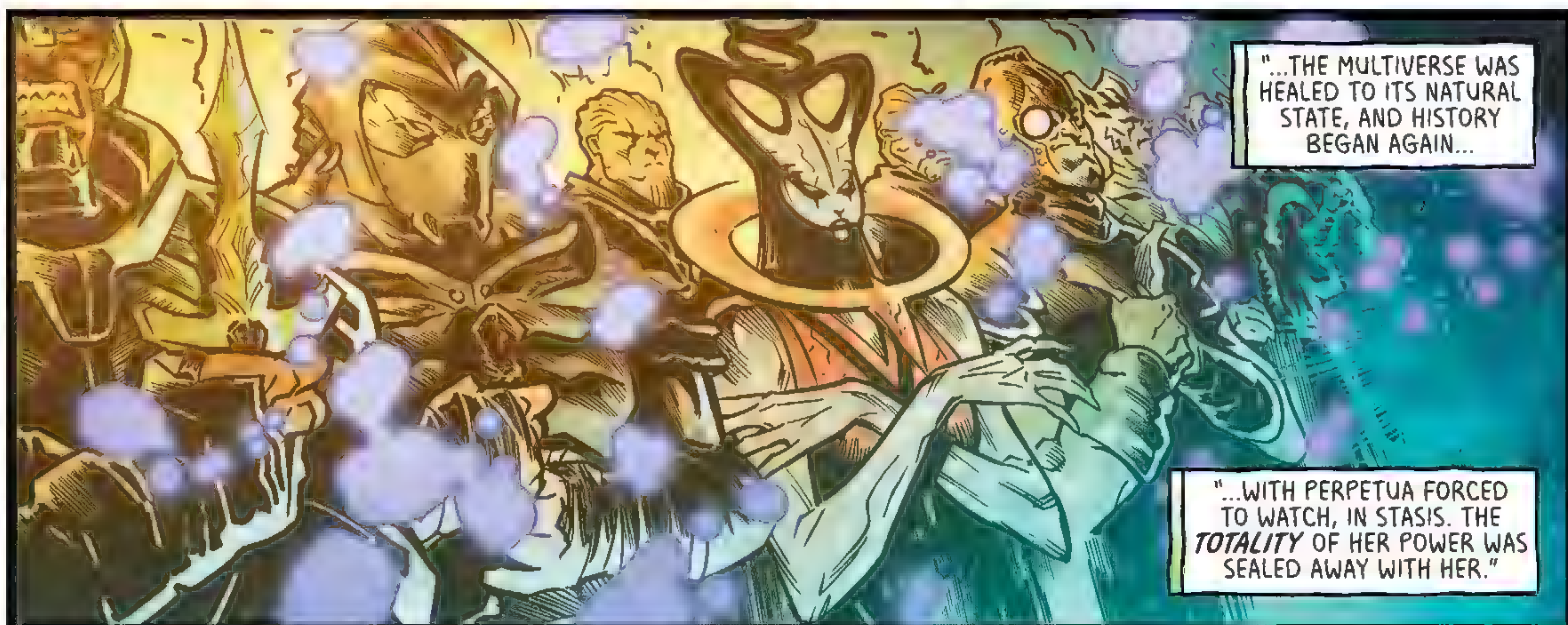
"AND THOSE SUPERIORS RESPONDED, SENDING THE TREMENDOUS ENERGY NEEDED TO BIND PERPETUA, HER POWER, AND HER IMMORTAL ARMY OF APEX PREDATORS.



"SHE WAS SEALED IN A **WALL** AROUND THE EDGE OF THE MULTIVERSE. A SEEMINGLY INFINITE BARRIER, SEPARATING OUR MULTIVERSE FROM THE GREATER OMNIVERSE, AND THE SOURCE AT ITS CENTER.



"IN TIME, THIS BARRIER WOULD BECOME KNOWN AS THE **SOURCE WALL**...



"...THE MULTIVERSE WAS HEALED TO ITS NATURAL STATE, AND HISTORY BEGAN AGAIN...

"...WITH PERPETUA FORCED TO WATCH, IN STASIS. THE **TOTALITY** OF HER POWER WAS SEALED AWAY WITH HER."

"BUT THANKS TO THE TAMPERING OF THE MALTUSIAN SCIENTIST, **KRONA**...THE MULTIVERSE DID NOT SET IN A STABLE FORM.

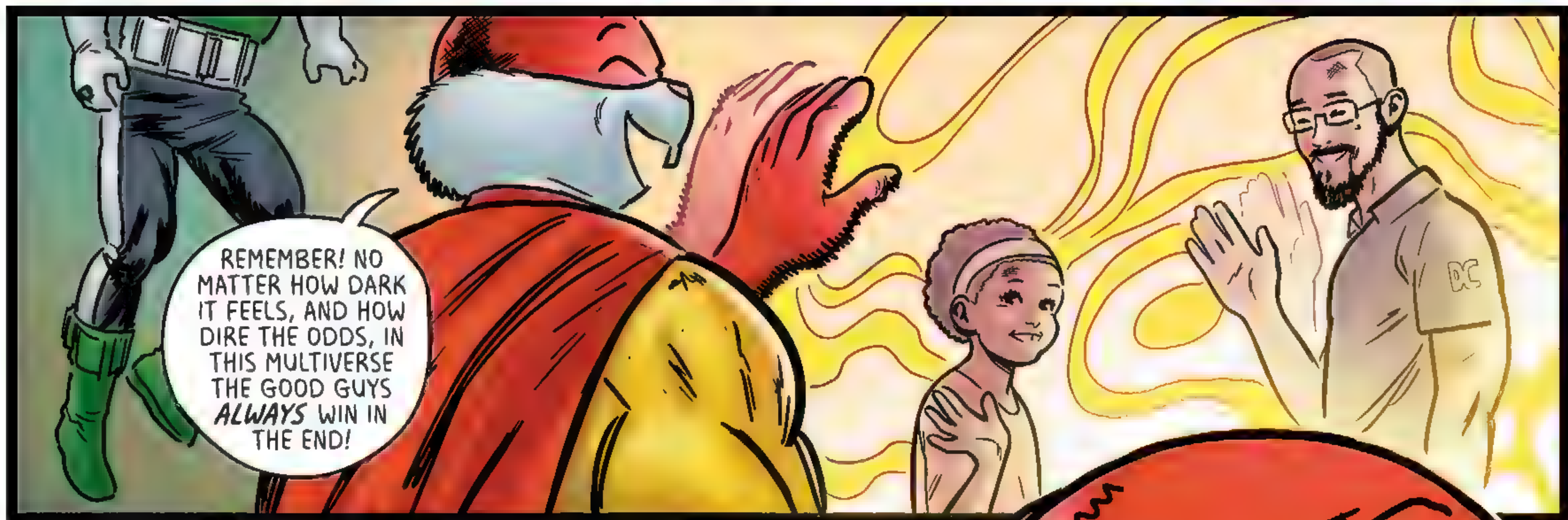
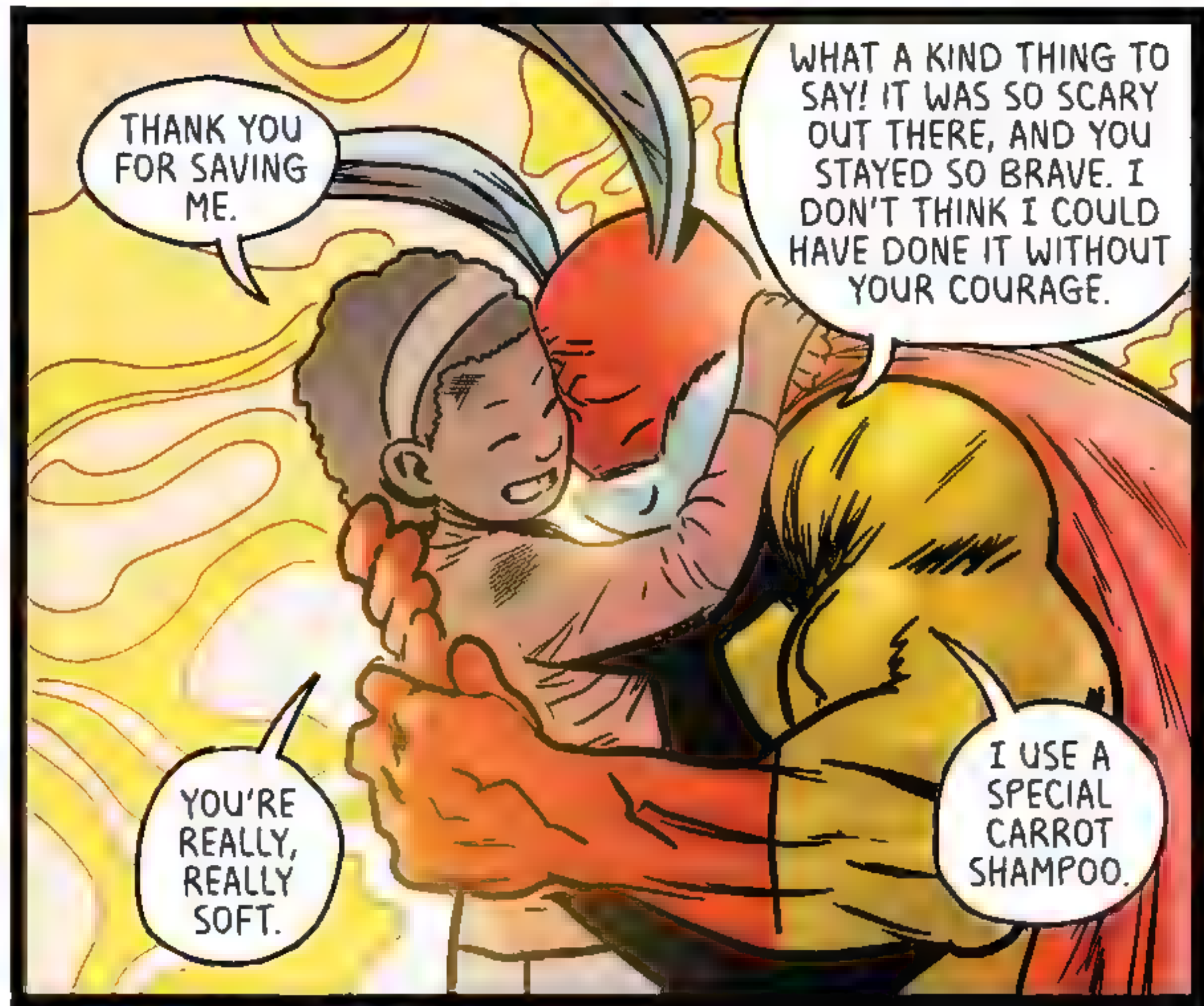
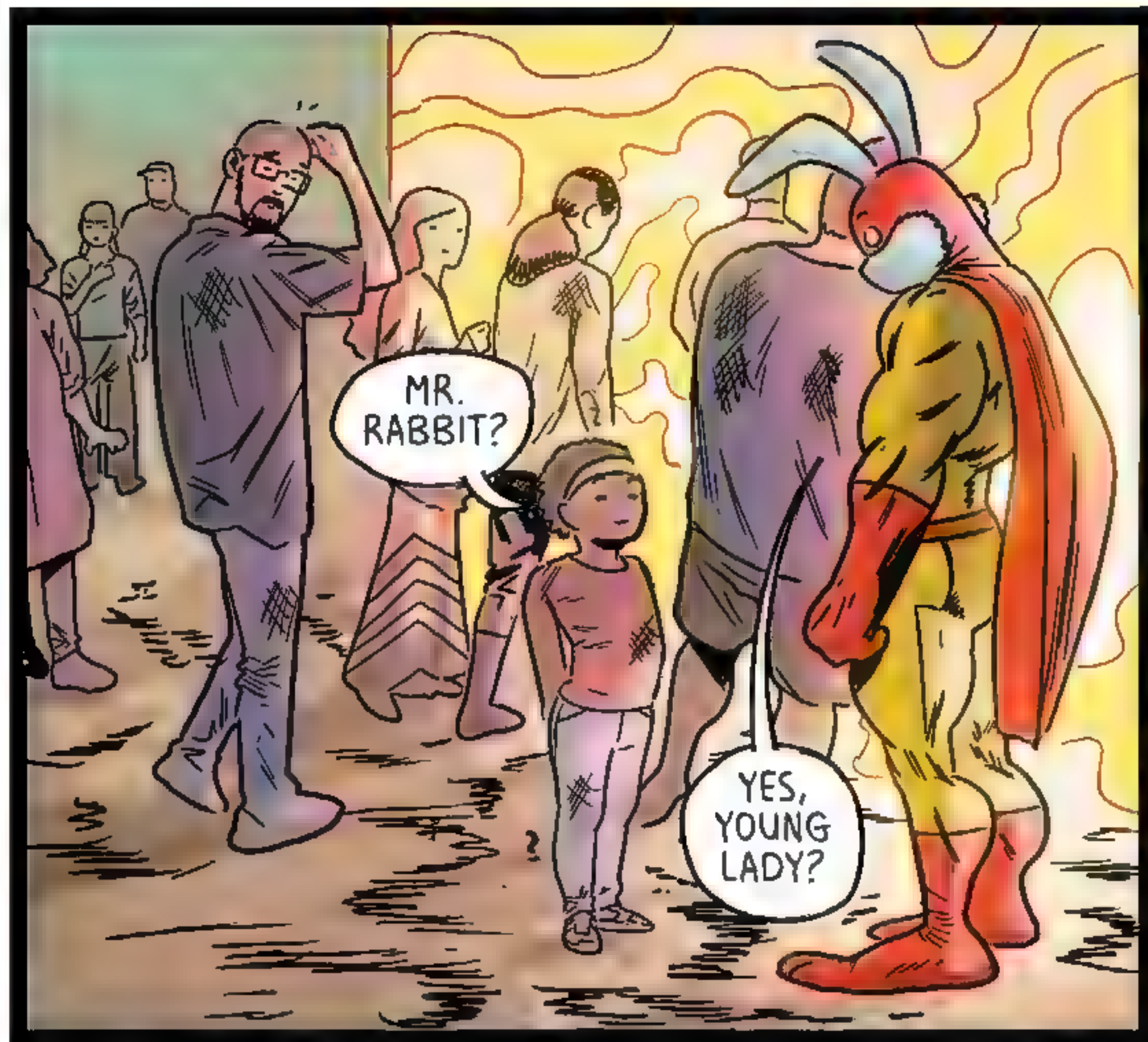
"AN **INFINITE** MULTIVERSE WAS BORN, CONTAINING INFINITE **WORLDS**, WITH INFINITE **POSSIBILITIES**. BUT EACH OF THESE UNIVERSES SHARED A SINGLE BARRIER, IN THE SOURCE WALL.

"PERPETUA WAS FORCED TO WATCH HER MULTIVERSE GROW MORE AND MORE UNSTABLE. SHE KNEW ITS ULTIMATE FATE: IT WOULD DIE, AND SHE WOULD DIE WITH IT.

"SHE NEEDED TO FREE HERSELF, BUT THE ONLY THING THAT COULD FREE HER WAS AN ACTION THAT WOULD **CRACK** THE VERY FOUNDATION OF REALITY.

"A **CRISIS**.

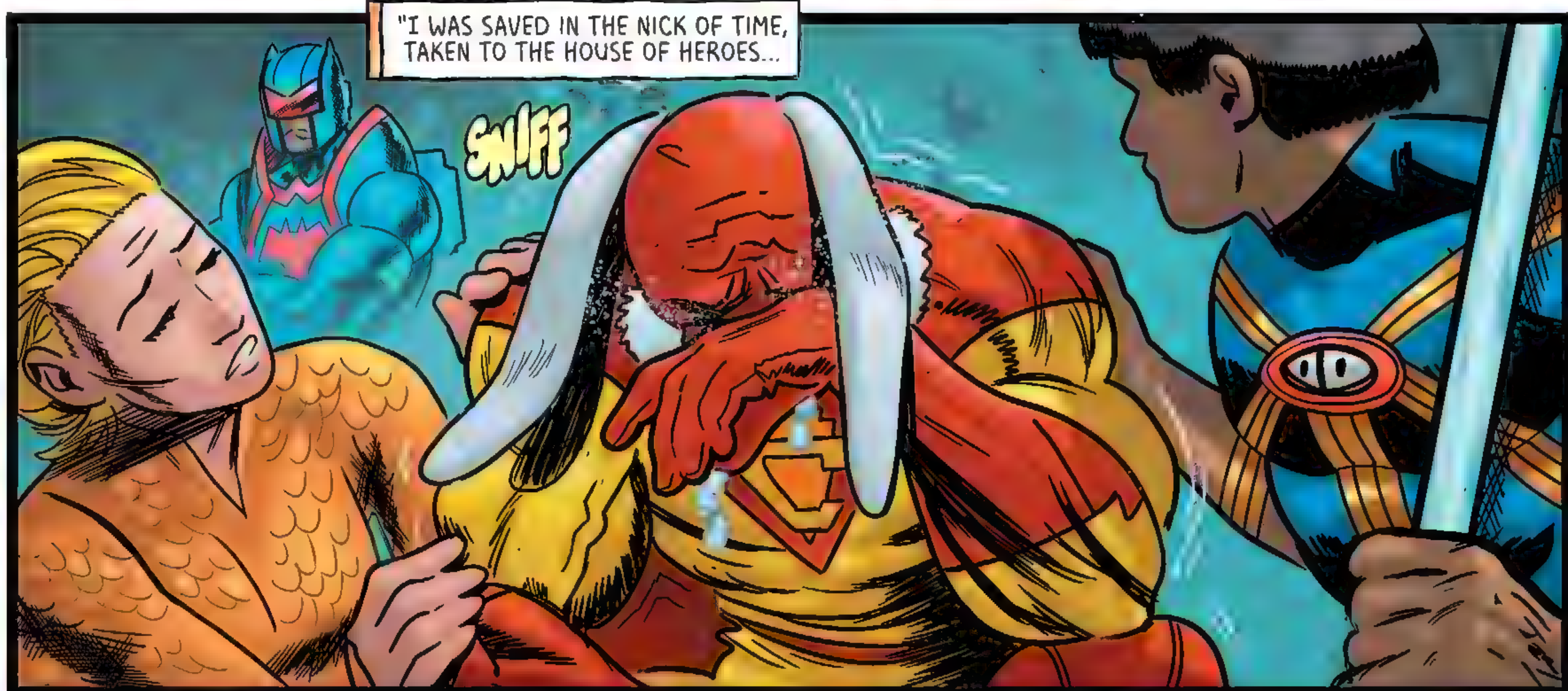
"AND SO, PERPETUA BEGAN TO **WHISPER** IN THE MIND OF HER SON, THE **ANTI-MONITOR**, TO SET HIM ON A PATH THAT WOULD RESHAPE ALL OF EXISTENCE."





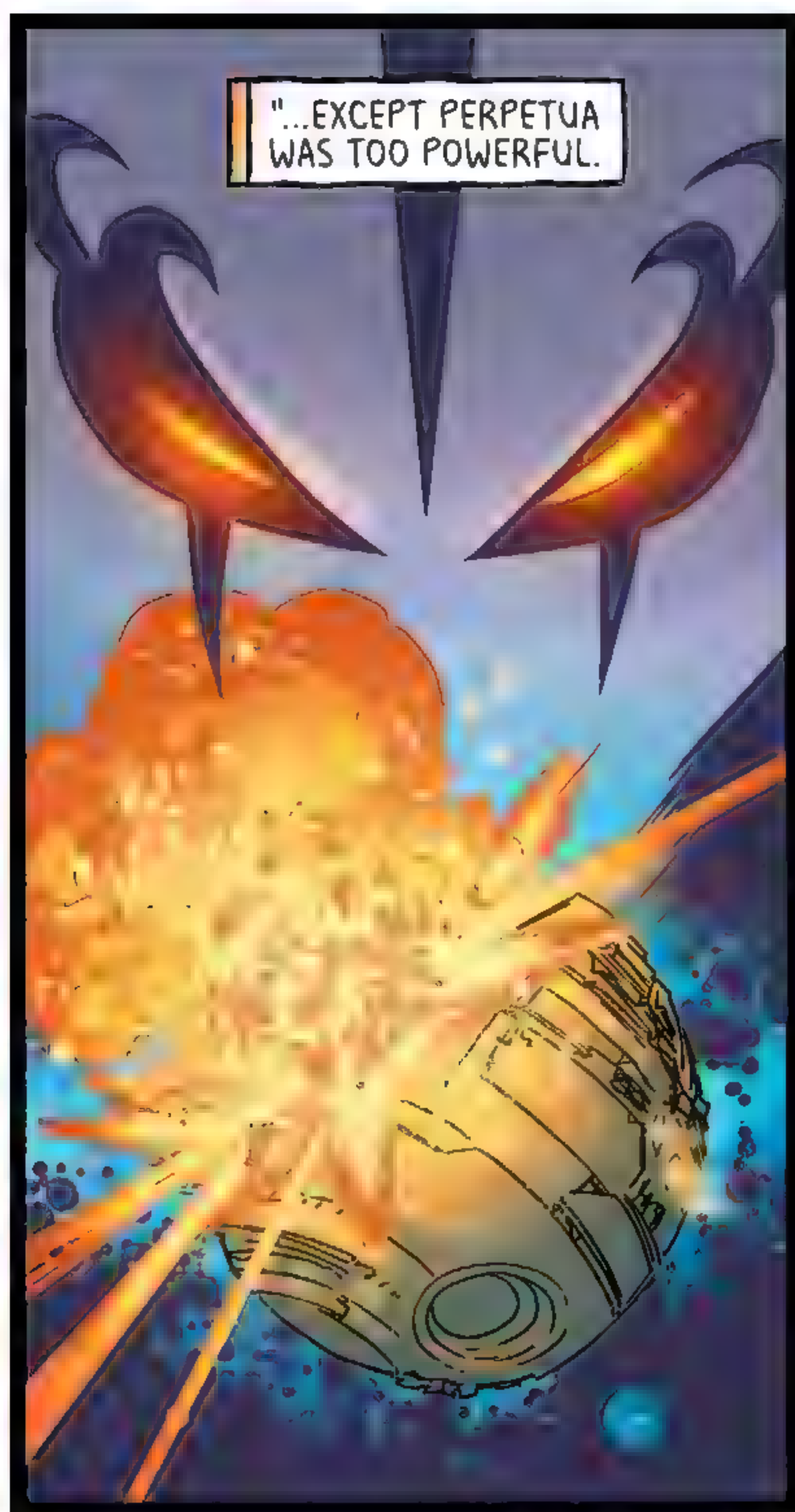
"...LIKE I SAID, PHYSICS WORKS DIFFERENTLY IN MY UNIVERSE. I DIDN'T THINK PERPETUA'S APEX PREDATORS HAD THAT KIND OF POWER.

"BY THE TIME I HAD CALLED FOR JUSTICE INCARNATE'S HELP, I HAD ALREADY LOST SO MUCH.



"I WAS SAVED IN THE NICK OF TIME, TAKEN TO THE HOUSE OF HEROES...

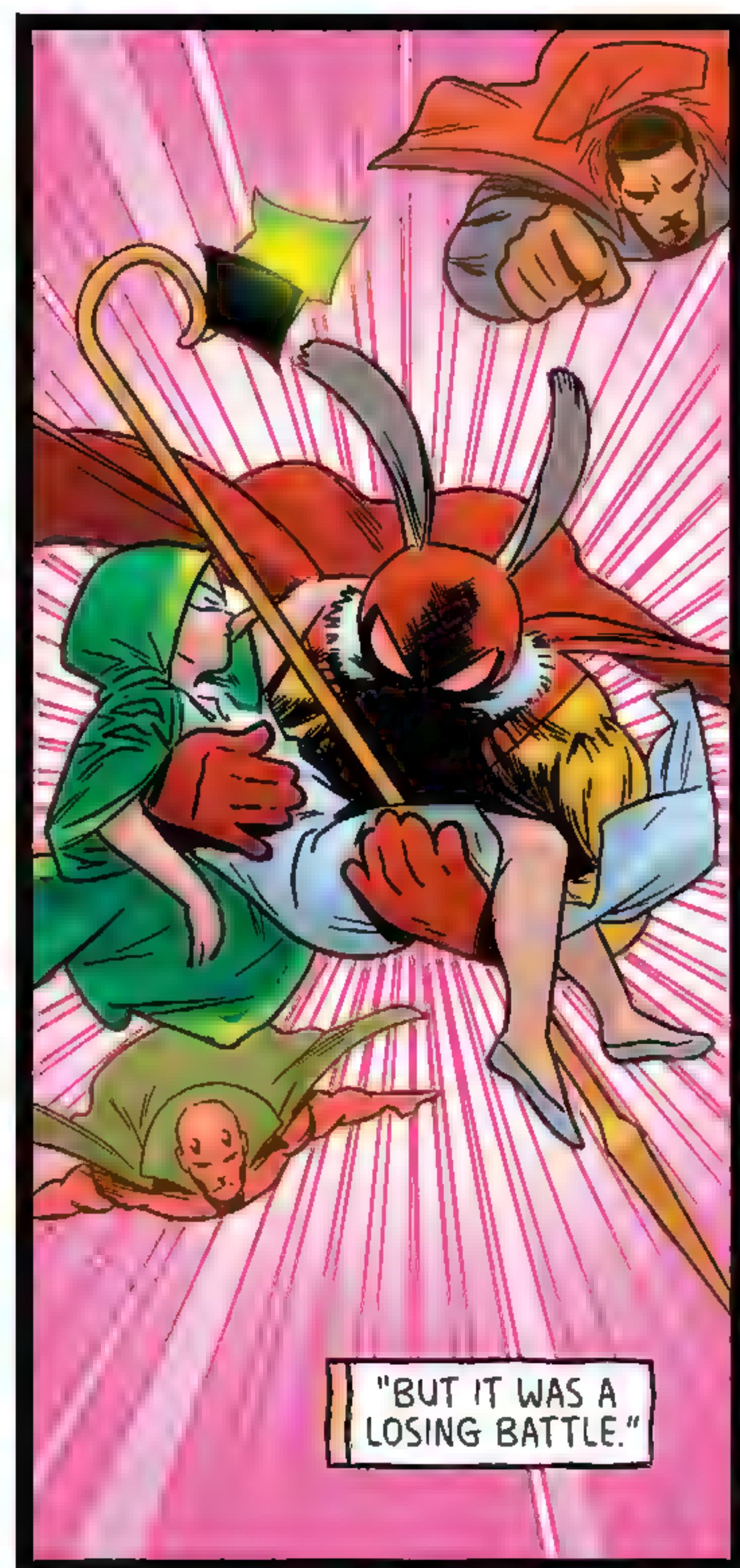
SNIFF



"...EXCEPT PERPETUA WAS TOO POWERFUL.



"ALL WE COULD DO WAS JUMP FROM WORLD TO WORLD, SAVING WHO WE COULD...



"BUT IT WAS A LOSING BATTLE."



IT FELT SO **HOPELESS** UNTIL YOU GREEN LANTERNS SHOWED UP. WE THOUGHT THE CENTER OF THE MULTIVERSE HAD BEEN **LOST**.



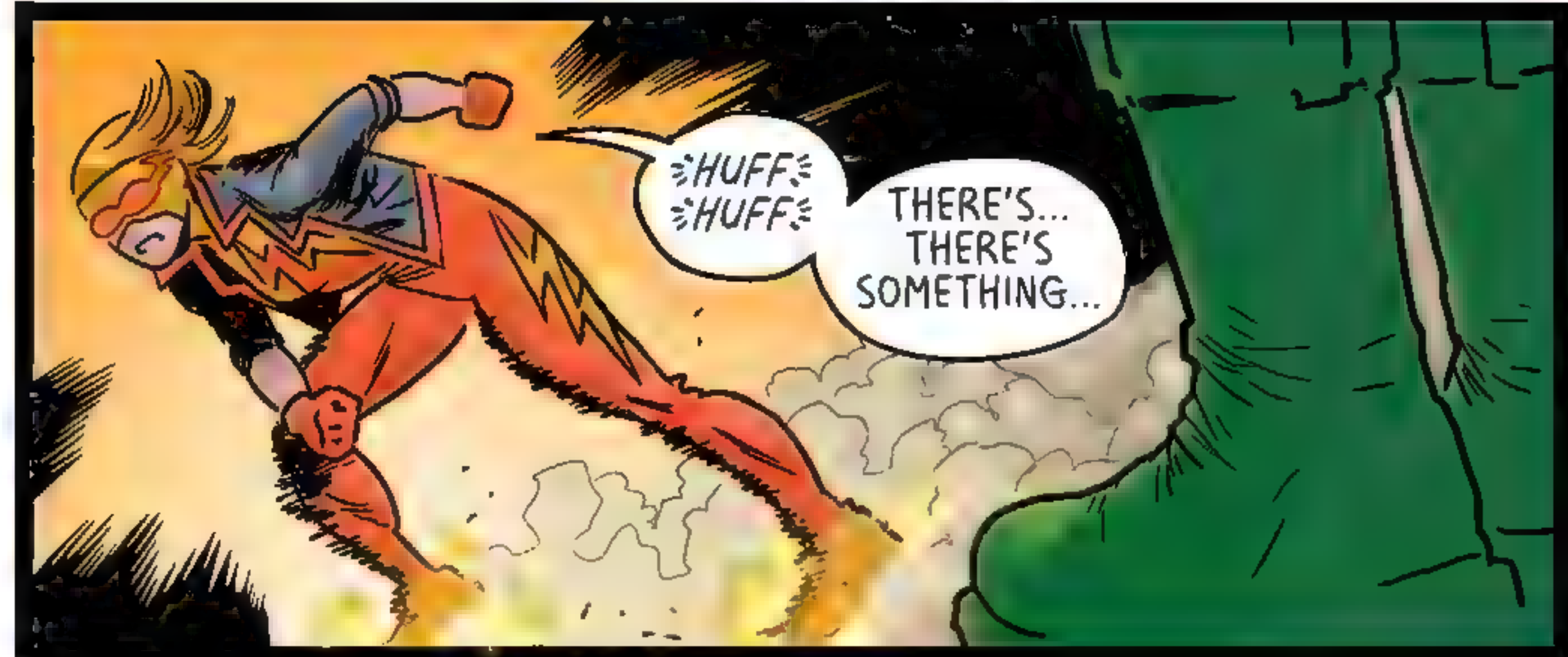
I HATE TO SAY IT, BUT IT'S **STILL** PRETTY LOST. OVERRUN BY MONSTERS FROM THE DARK MULTIVERSE. NIGHTMARISH VERSIONS OF BATMAN.

OUR PEOPLE THERE HAVE A PLAN NOW, TO RESET THINGS. TO PUT IT ALL BACK LIKE IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE.



I WONDER...IF MY WORLD WILL BE BORN AGAIN. IF THE **ZOO CREW** WILL HAVE ANOTHER DAY IN THE SUN.

I SURE AS HELL HOPE SO, CAP. I HOPE ALL THESE LIVES ARE SET RIGHT.

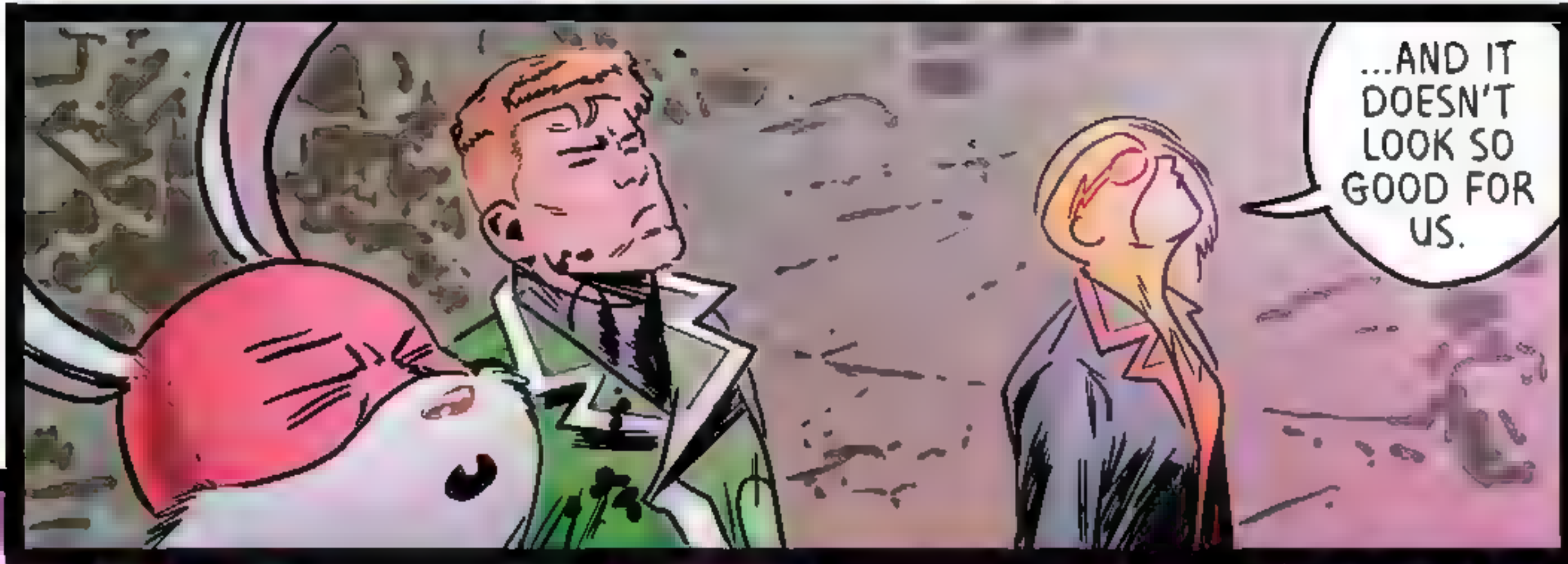


≡HUFF≡
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THERE'S...
THERE'S
SOMETHING...



...THERE'S
SOMETHING
WRONG!



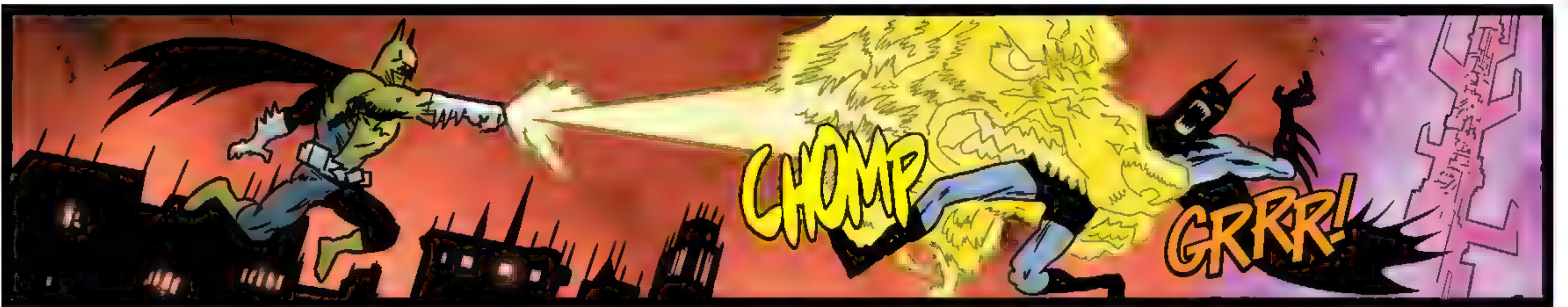
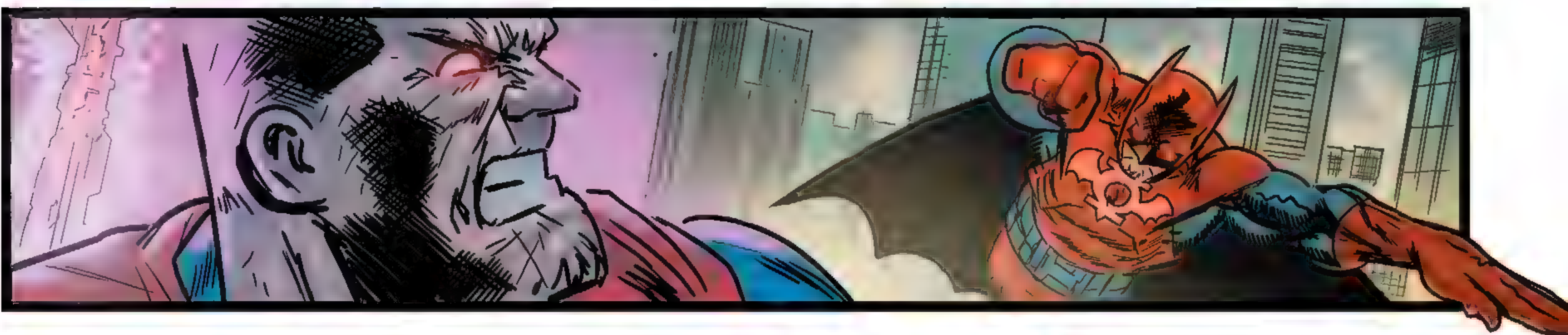


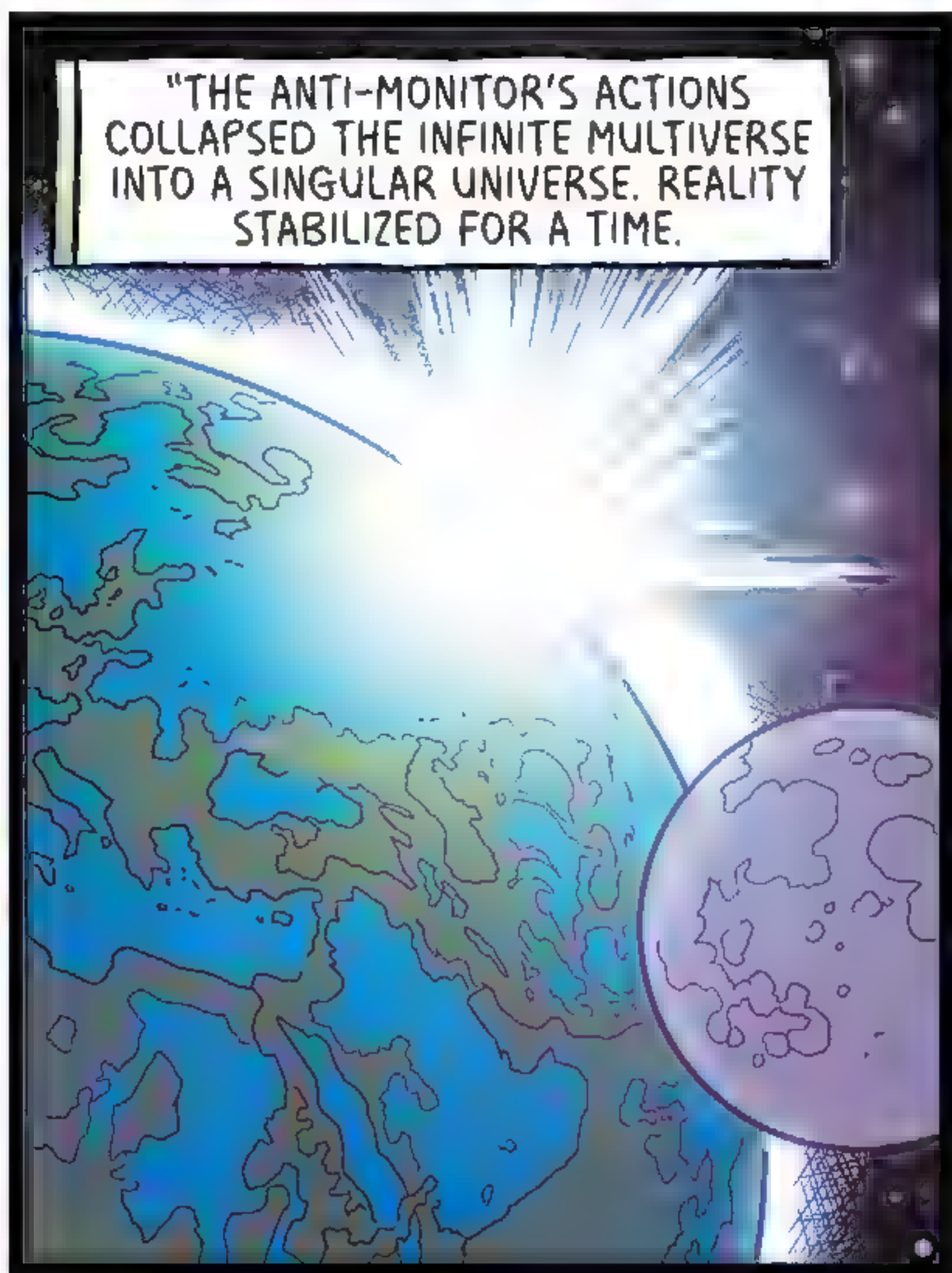
JUSTICE INCARNATE! I AM BROADCASTING ON ALL MULTIVERSAL FREQUENCIES.

SURRENDER NOW, AND HAND OVER THE PEOPLE OF *EARTH-O*, OR YOU WILL BE SLAUGHTERED AT THE HANDS OF MY *RAINBOW BATMAN CORPS*!



I'LL SKIN YOU ALL ALIVE, TO MAKE A QUILT FOR MY CRIB. DON'T TEST ME. I'M VERY, VERY CRANKY.

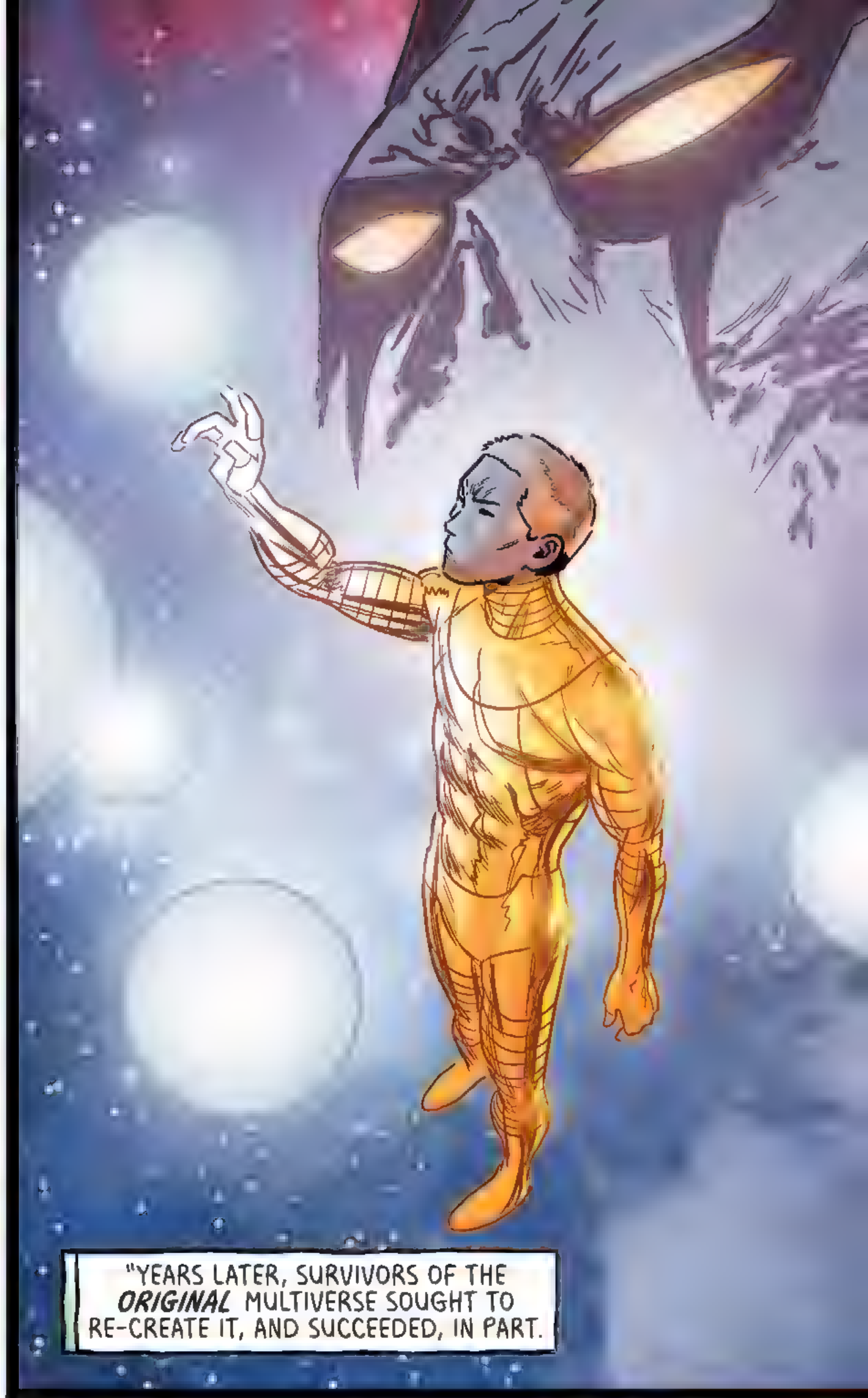






"SHE WAS ABLE TO WHISPER OUT, THROUGH THE MULTIVERSE, INTO THE EARS OF THOSE POWERFUL ENOUGH TO SHAKE THE FOUNDATION OF REALITY.

"AND SOON, *PARALLAX* SOUGHT TO REWRITE HISTORY BY TRAVELING BACK TO ITS START AND RE-CREATING THE MULTIVERSE. HE FAILED, BUT HIS ACTIONS SHOOK REALITY.



"YEARS LATER, SURVIVORS OF THE *ORIGINAL* MULTIVERSE SOUGHT TO RE-CREATE IT, AND SUCCEEDED, IN PART.



"SOON AFTER, *DARKSEID'S* ATTACK RIPPLED ACROSS THE NEW MULTIVERSE AND INTO MONITOR SPACE.



"AND FINALLY, HER WHISPERS COMPELLED THE GREAT DRAGON OF THE DARK MULTIVERSE, *BARBATOS*, TO STRIKE DOWN THE WORLD FORGER AND WAGE HIS OWN WAR ON REALITY."

"EACH TIME, HEROES OF THE MULTIVERSE PUSHED BACK AGAINST THE CRISES. THEY WERE CHANGED, TIME AND TIME AGAIN, BUT THEIR CORE ESSENCE REMAINED.

"THOUGH UNBEKNOWNST TO US HEROES, EACH TIME REALITY SETTLED INTO ITS NEW SHAPE, A NEW CRACK FORMED IN PERPETUA'S CONTAINMENT.

"AND WHEN THE JUSTICE LEAGUE OF EARTH-0 USED ELEMENT X, STRAIGHT FROM THE WORLD FORGE, TO LOCK THE DARK MULTIVERSE AWAY...

"THE SOURCE WALL
RIPPED OPEN.

"AND PERPETUA WAS
FINALLY *FREE*."



THAT'S THE *SHORT* VERSION. THERE WAS A WHOLE BIT ABOUT A TOTALITY, AND SEVEN FORCES, AND A LEGION OF DOOM, BUT YOU GET THE GIST.

THE TRICK WITH ELEMENT X IS PROBABLY WHY YOU AND THE REST OF THE CRIME SYNDICATE ARE ALIVE.



EXPLAIN YOURSELF.

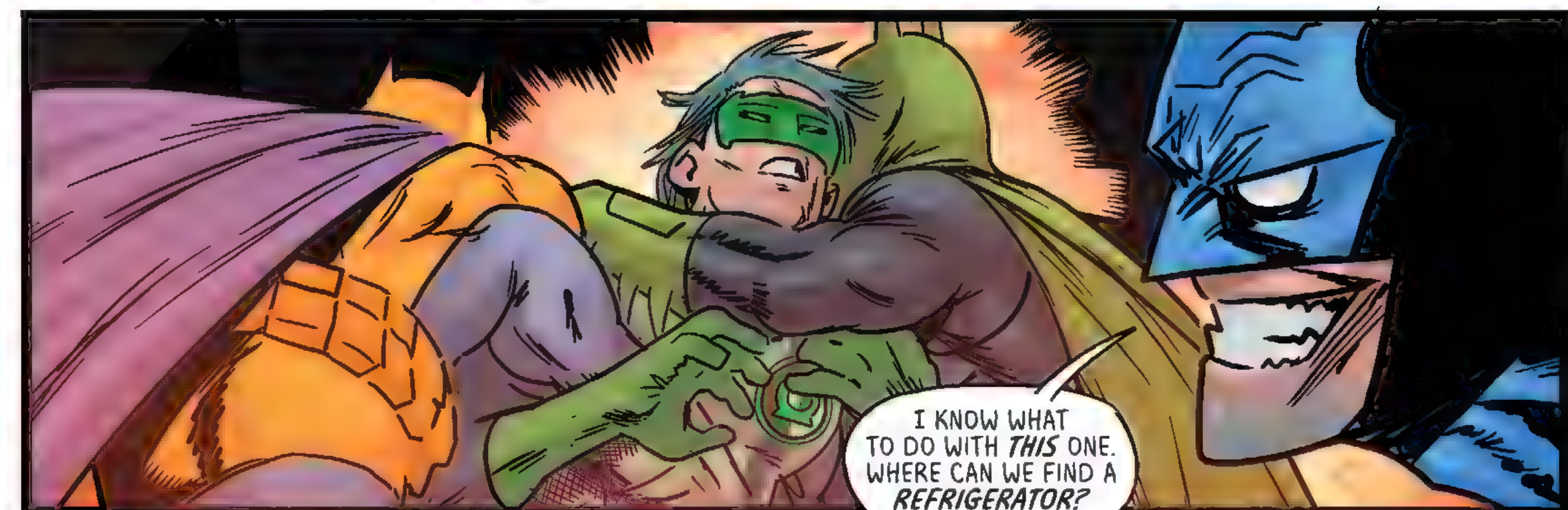
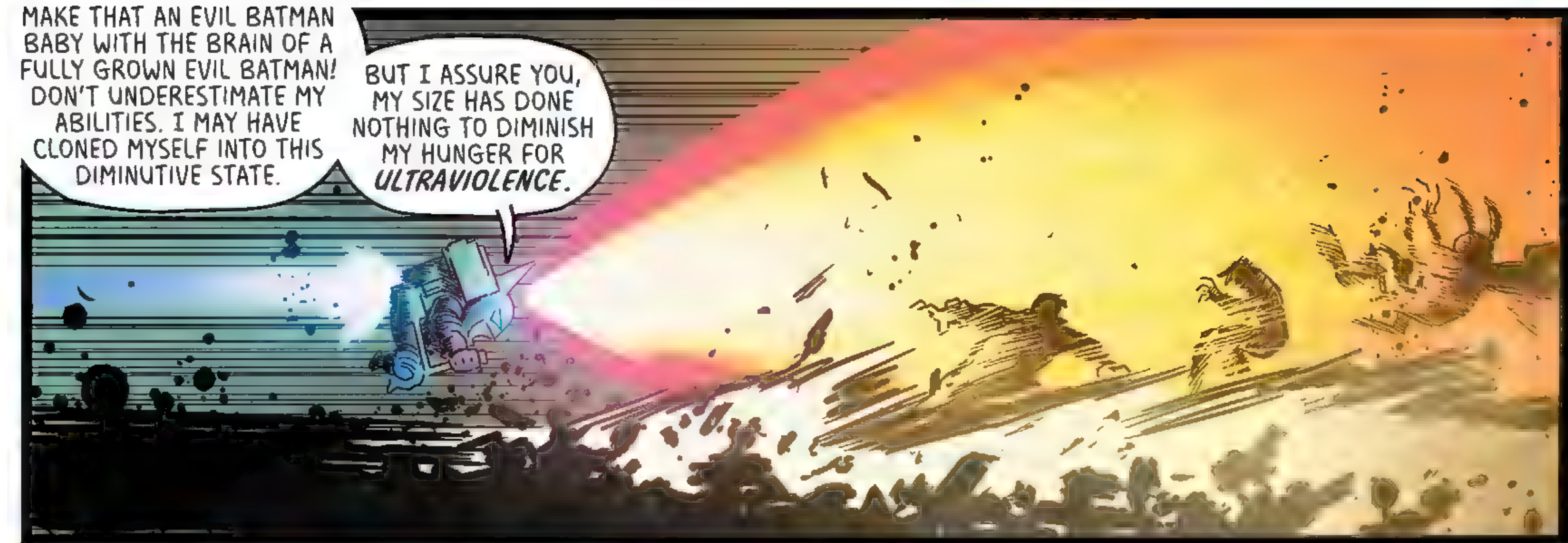
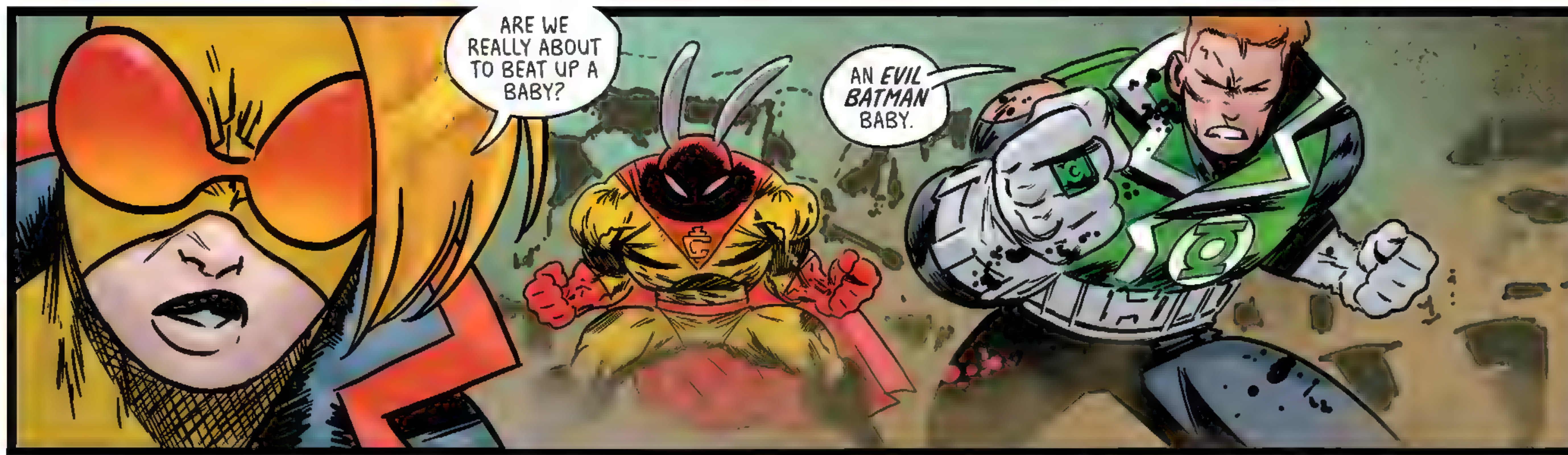


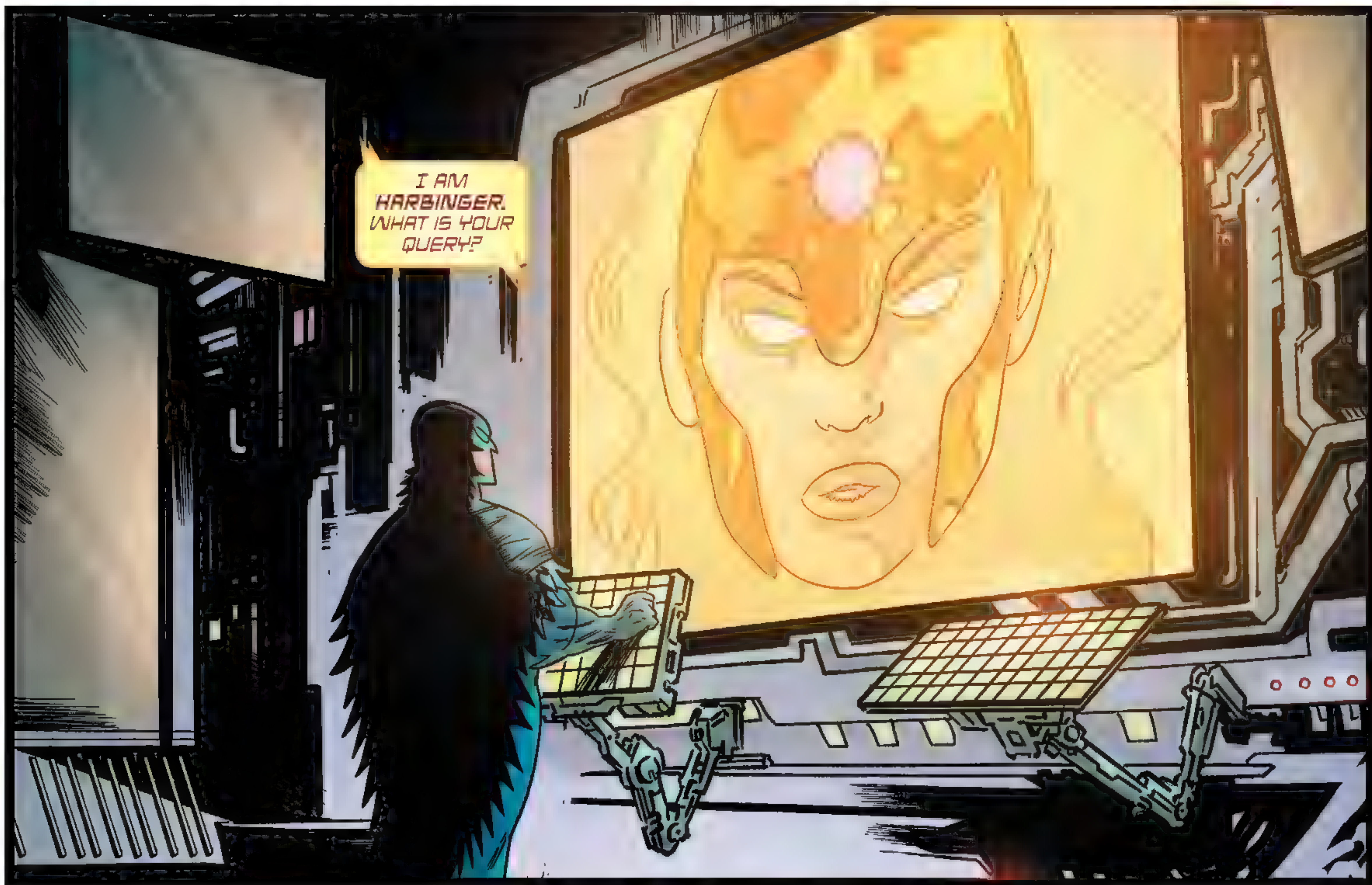
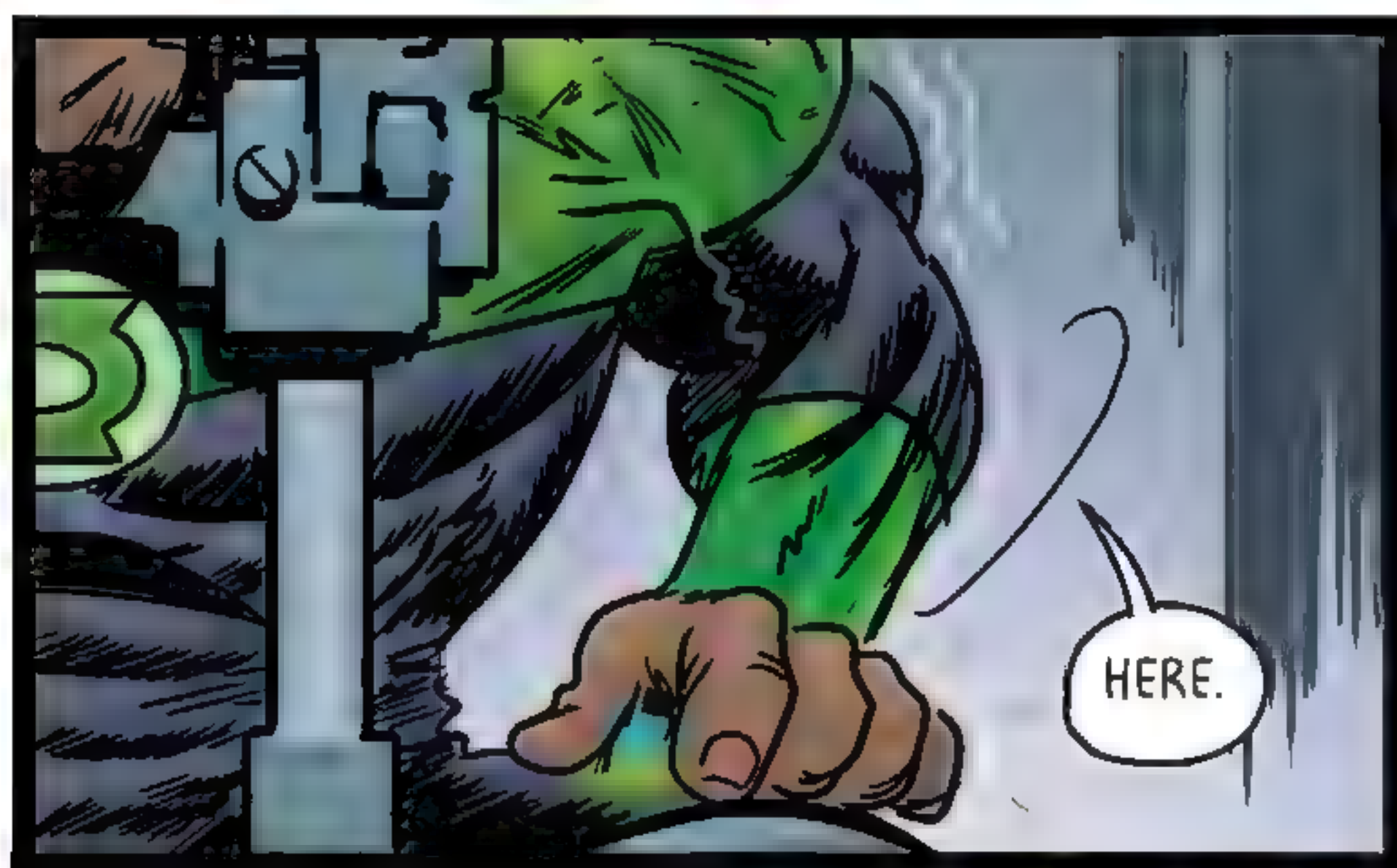
YOU WERE *KILLED* ALONG WITH THE REST OF THE CRIME SYNDICATE A LITTLE WHILE BACK ON MY WORLD. YOU INVADED AFTER EARTH-3 HAD BEEN DESTROYED.

BUT EVERY TIME THE UNIVERSE BREAKS, IT HEALS ITS WOUNDS.



YOU'RE TELLING ME I'M NOT THE *ORIGINAL* OWLMAN...





THE FIRST ITERATION OF OWLMAN DIED WITH THE FIRST EARTH-3 DURING THE ANTI-MONITOR'S CRISIS EVENT.



HIS PLANET RE-FORMED IN THE ANTI-MATTER UNIVERSE, AFTER THE COLLAPSE OF THE MULTIVERSE, AND A NEW SECOND OWLMAN FORMED ALONGSIDE A NEW ITERATION OF THE CRIME SYNDICATE.



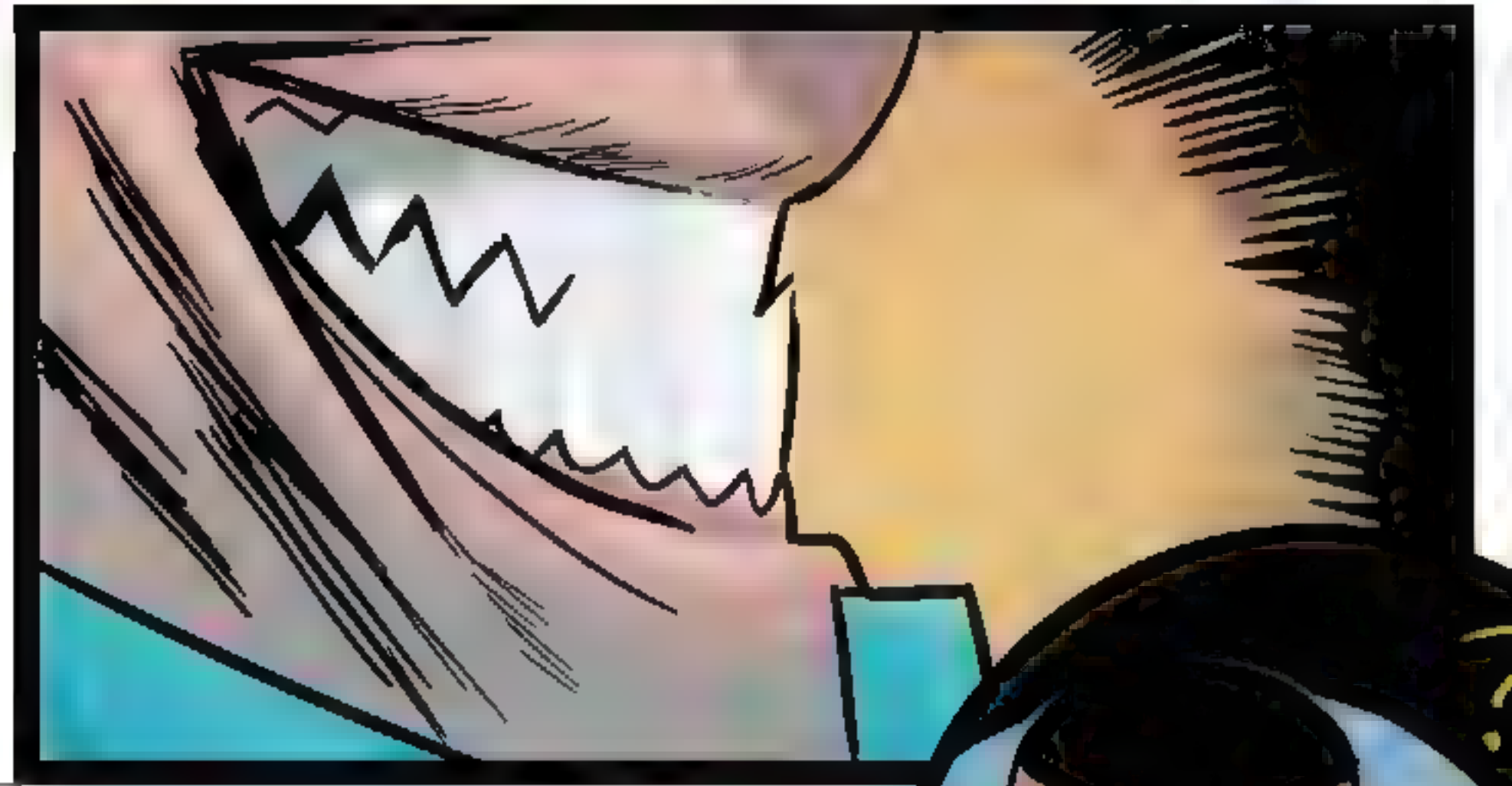
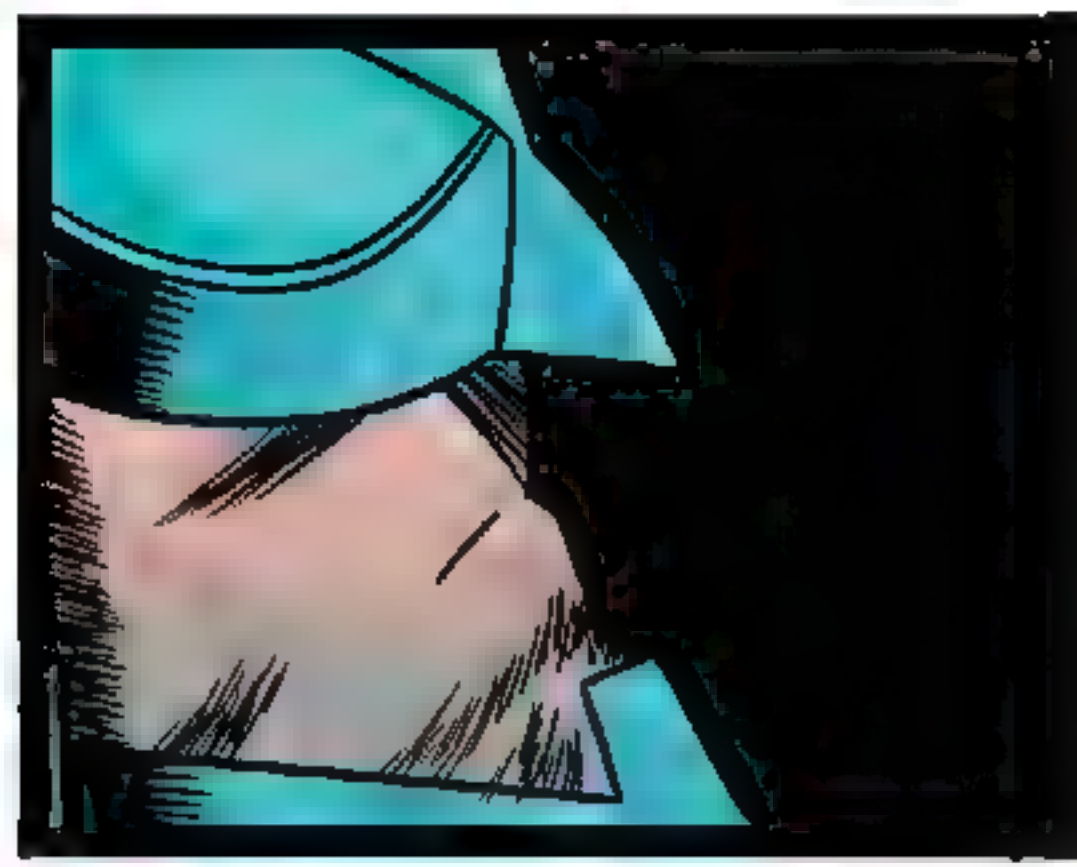
HIS WORLD BEGAN TO DETERIORATE WHEN THE LAST SURVIVOR OF THE ORIGINAL EARTH-3 INSTIGATED ANOTHER CRISIS-LEVEL EVENT AND RE-CREATED THE MULTIVERSE IN ITS CURRENT 52 UNIVERSE MODEL.



THE THIRD OWLMAN WAS BORN WITH THE OTHER NEW-52 EARTHS, AND HELPED LEAD AN INVASION OF EARTH-0 AFTER HIS WORLD WAS DESTROYED BY THE RECONSTITUTED ANTI-MONITOR.



HE WAS ULTIMATELY ELIMINATED BY THE BEING KNOWN AS DR. MANHATTAN, TO COVER UP MANHATTAN'S SECRET MEDDLING WITH THE HISTORY OF EARTH-0.



WHAT ARE YOU SO HAPPY ABOUT?



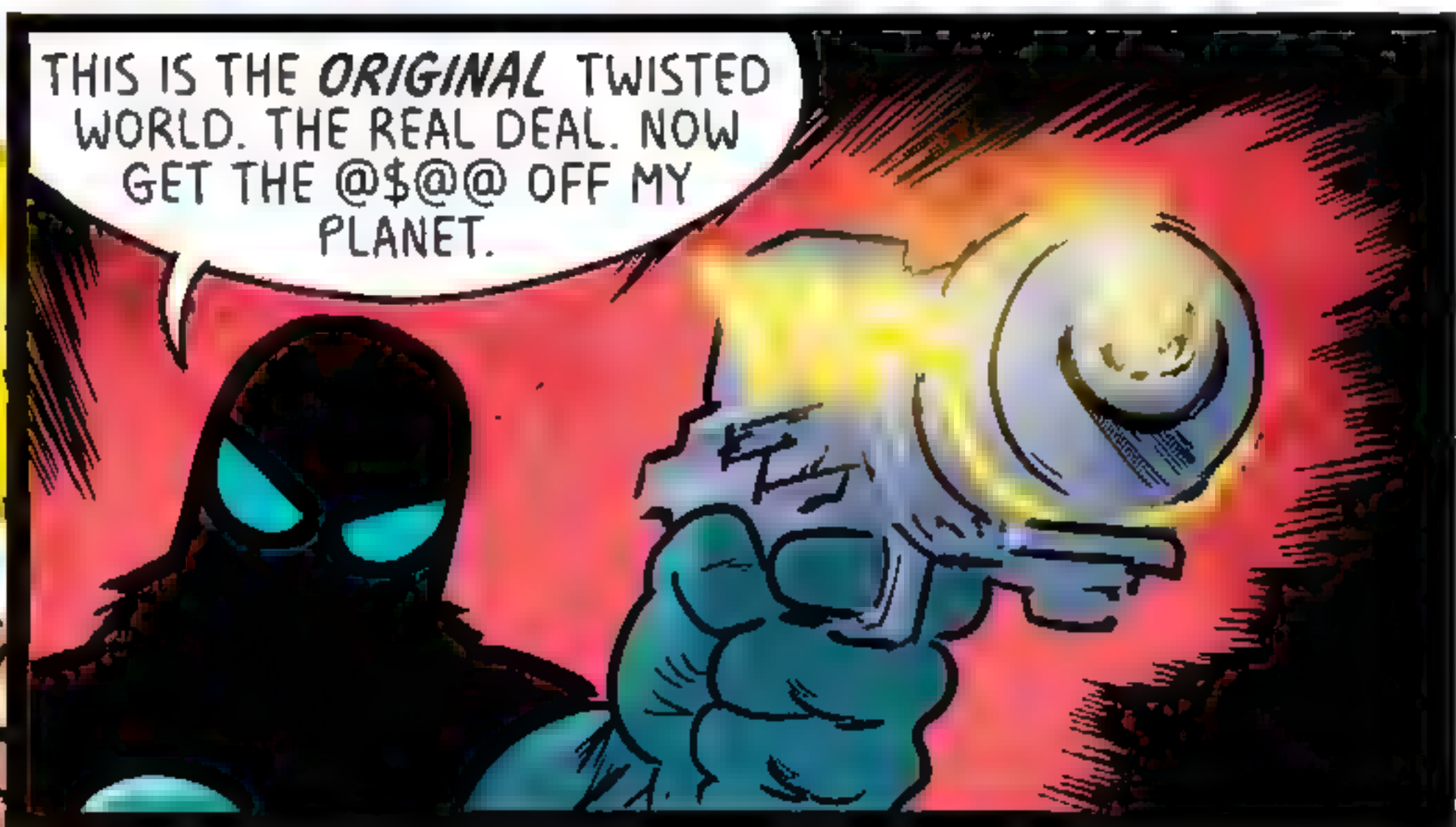
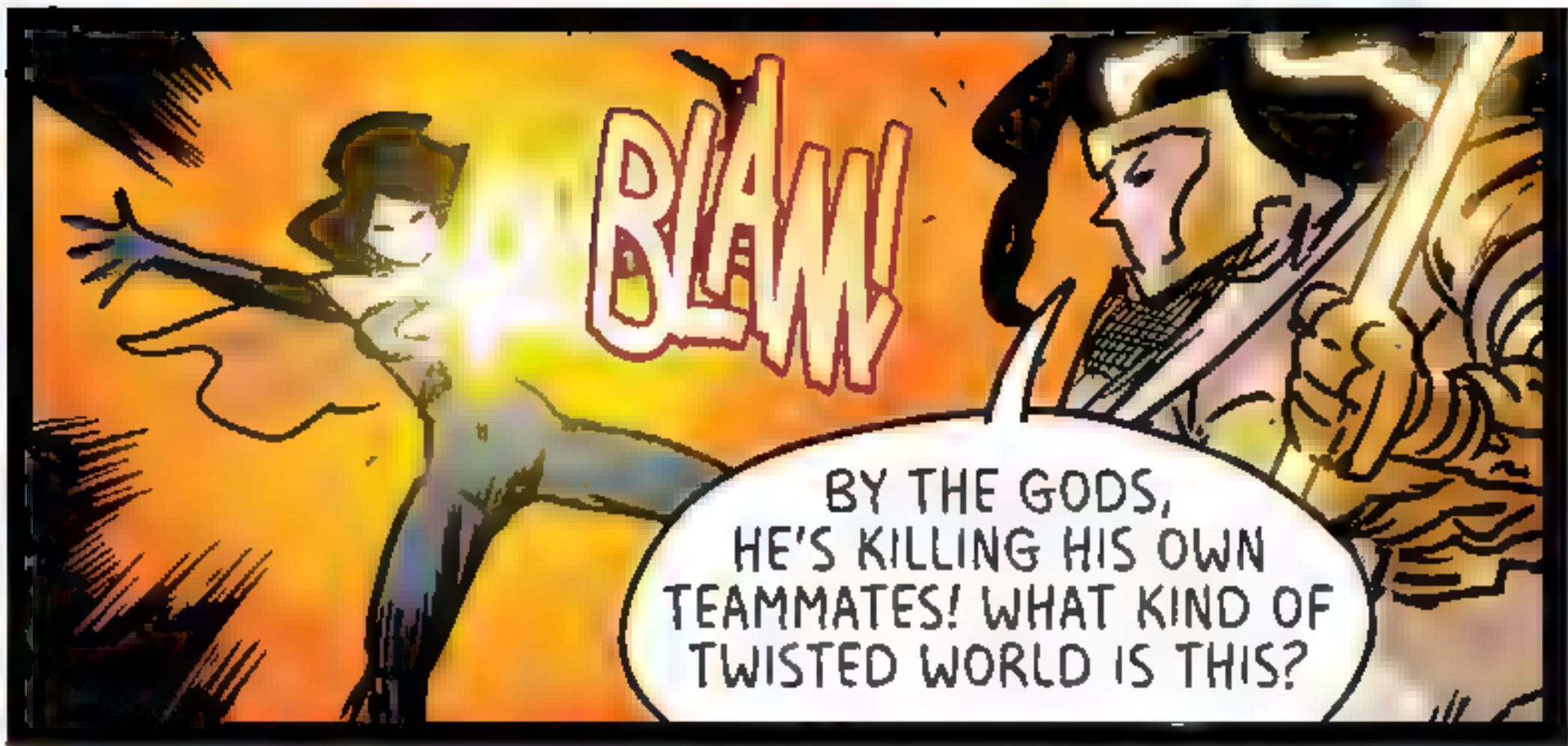
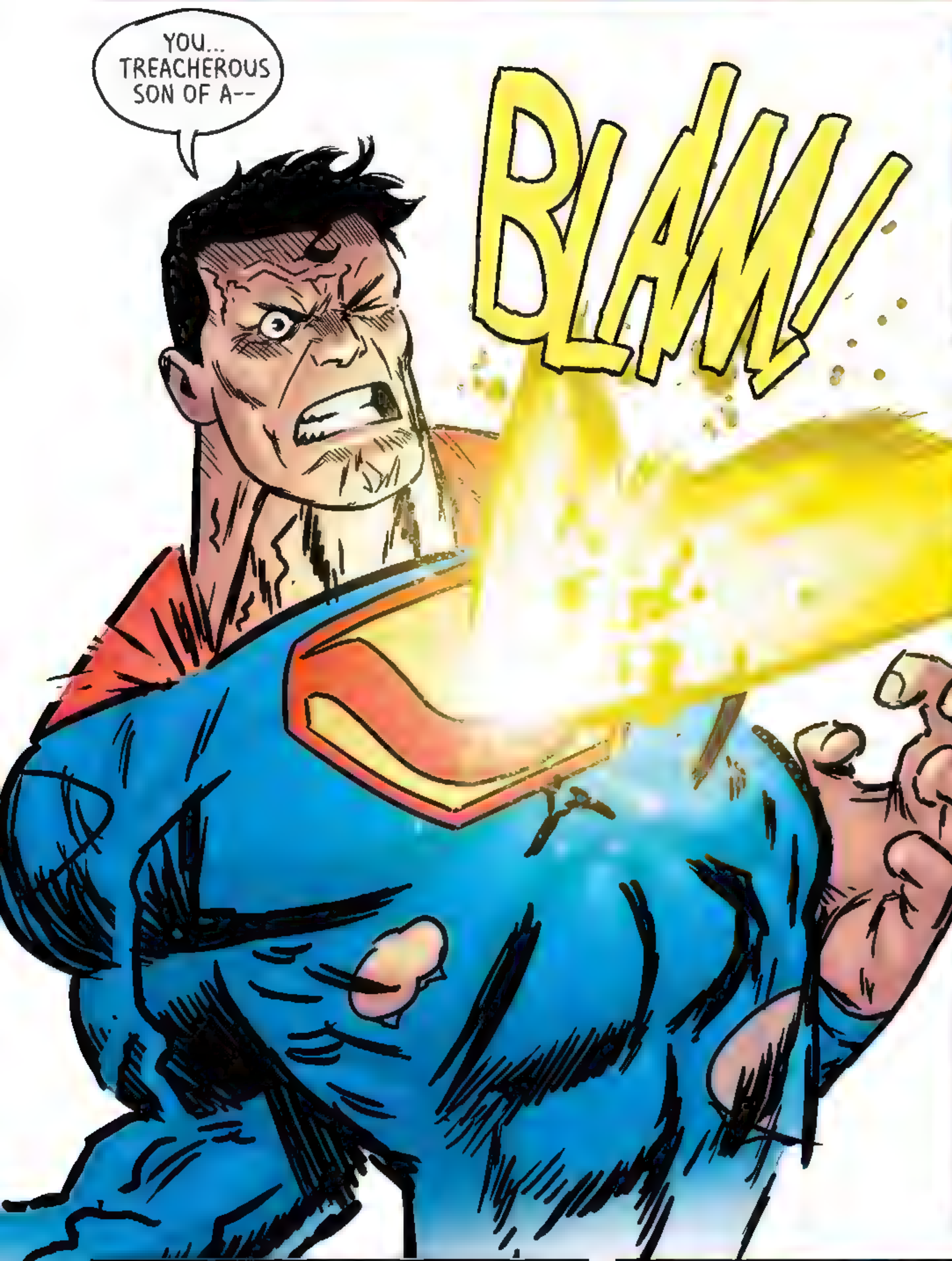
I JUST UNDERSTOOD SOMETHING CRUCIAL. THE BIT OF REASSURANCE I NEEDED IN ORDER TO ACT.

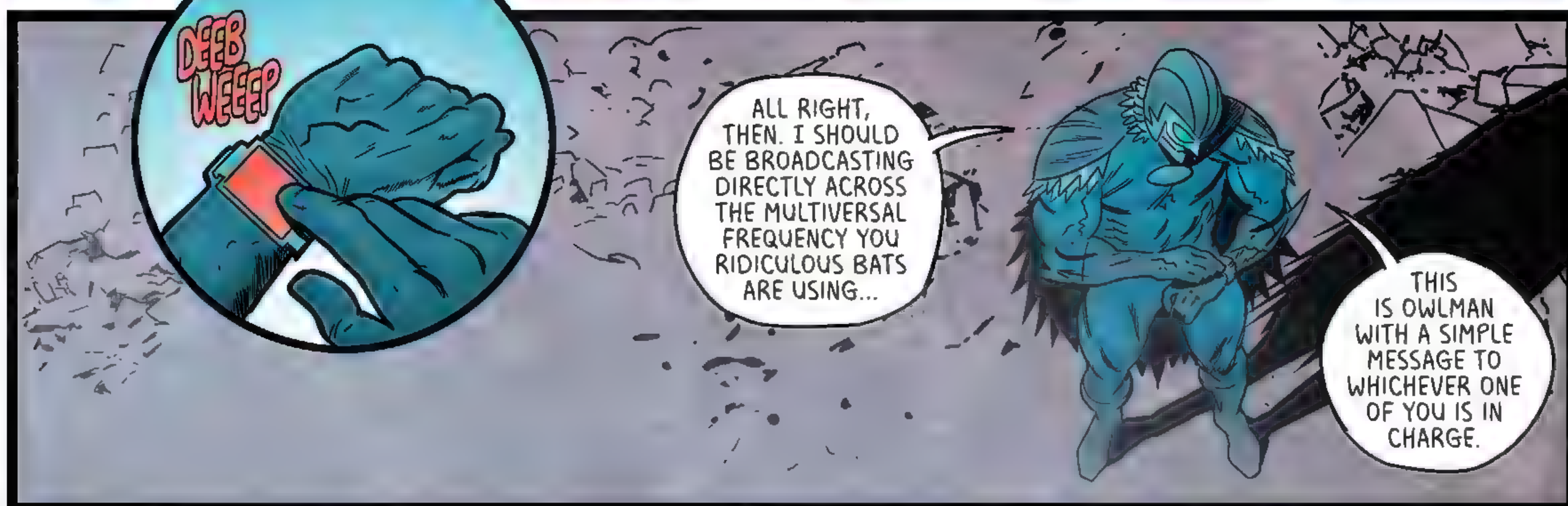
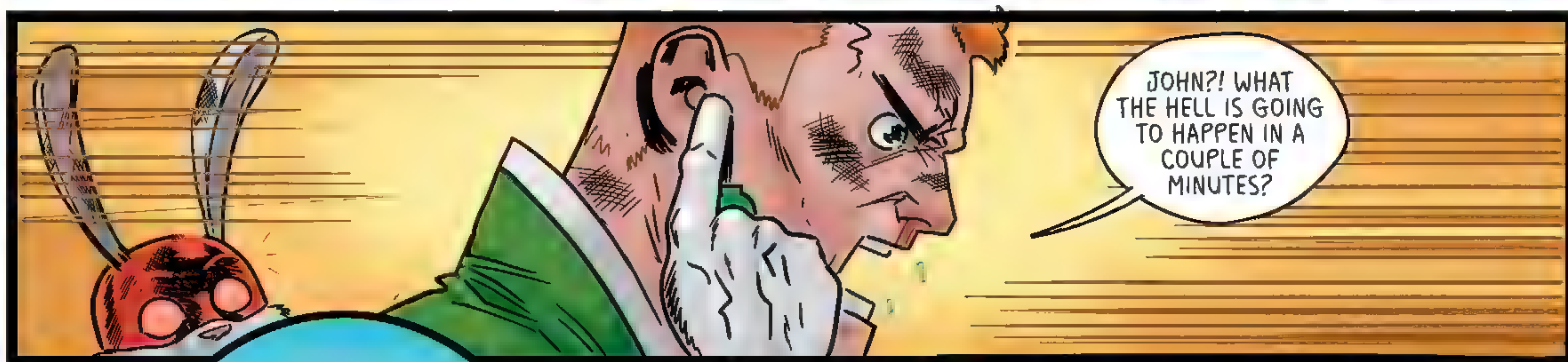
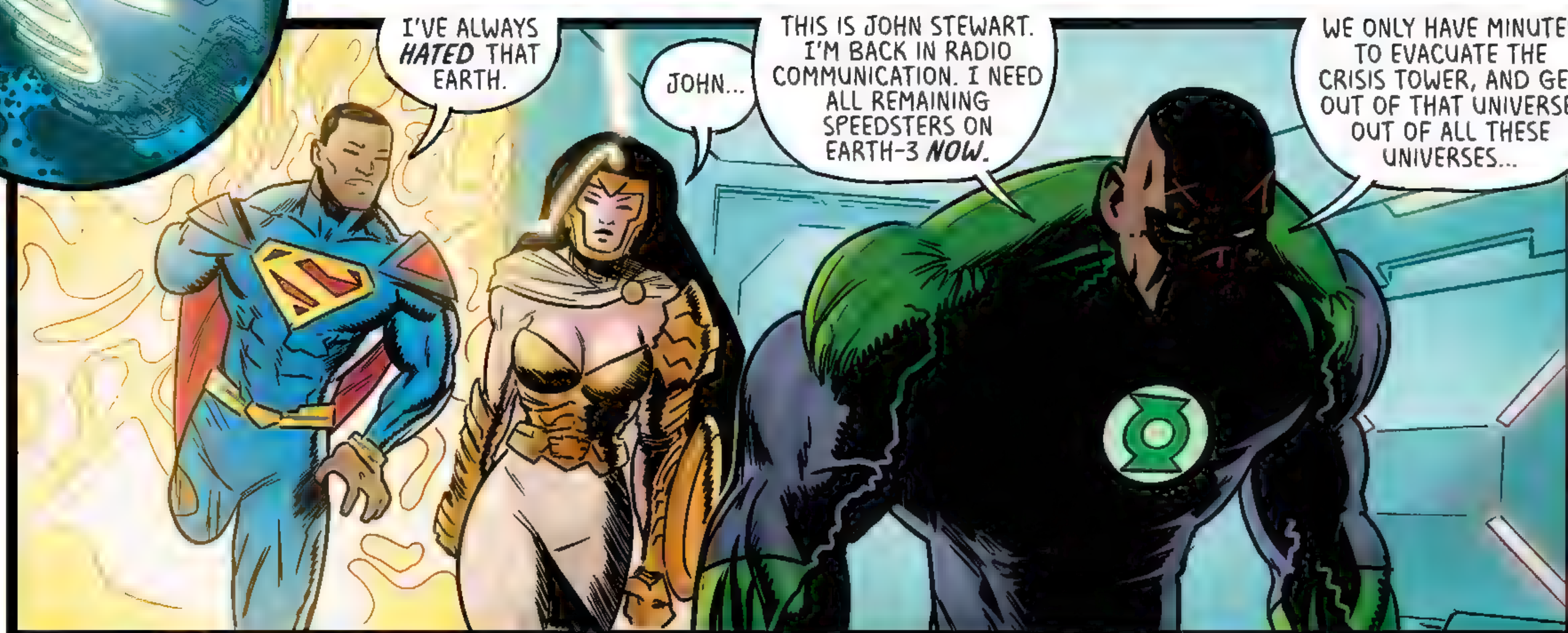
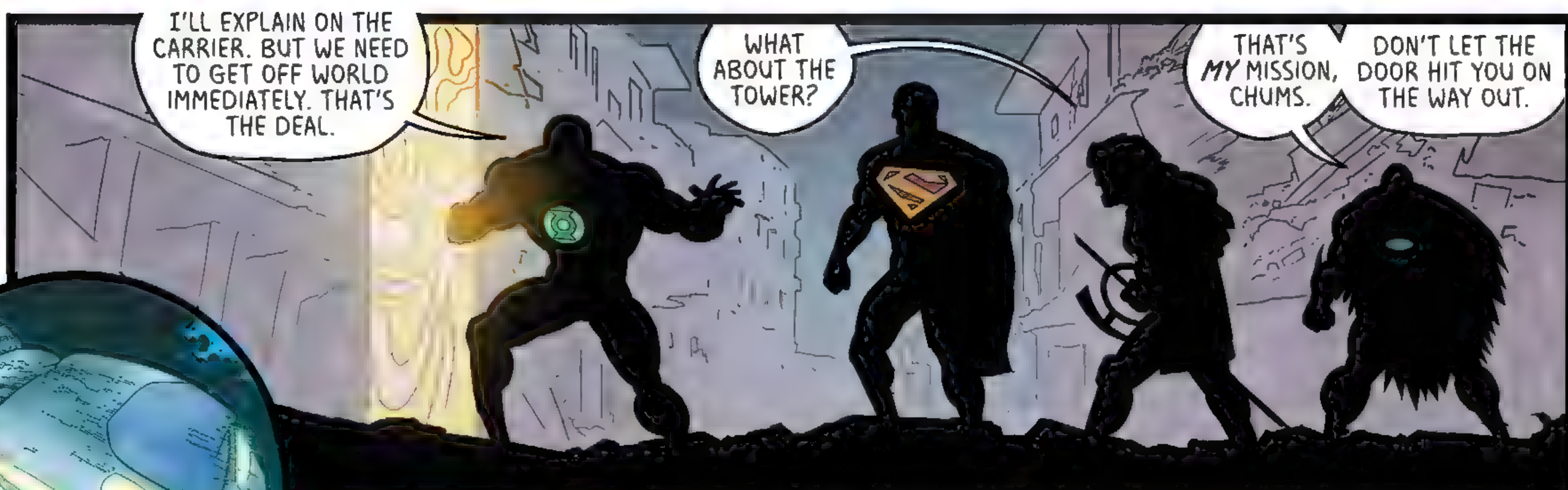


THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?



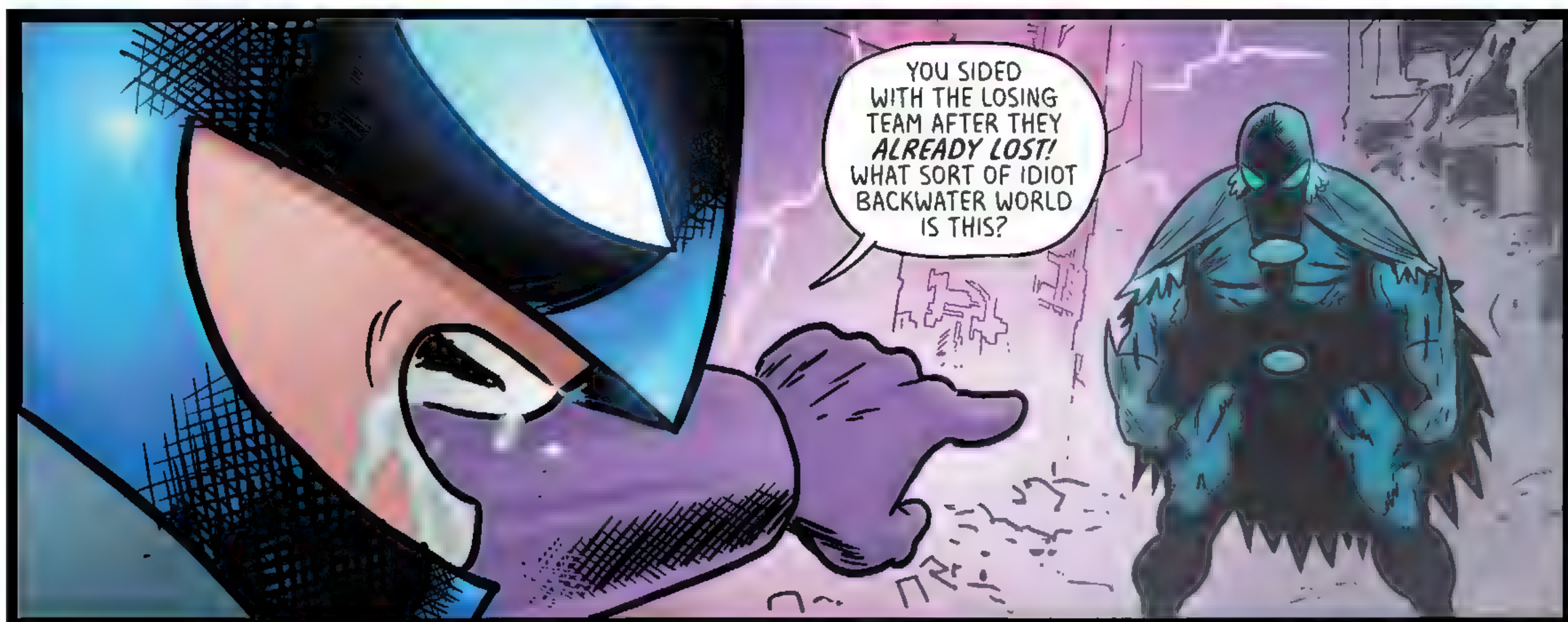
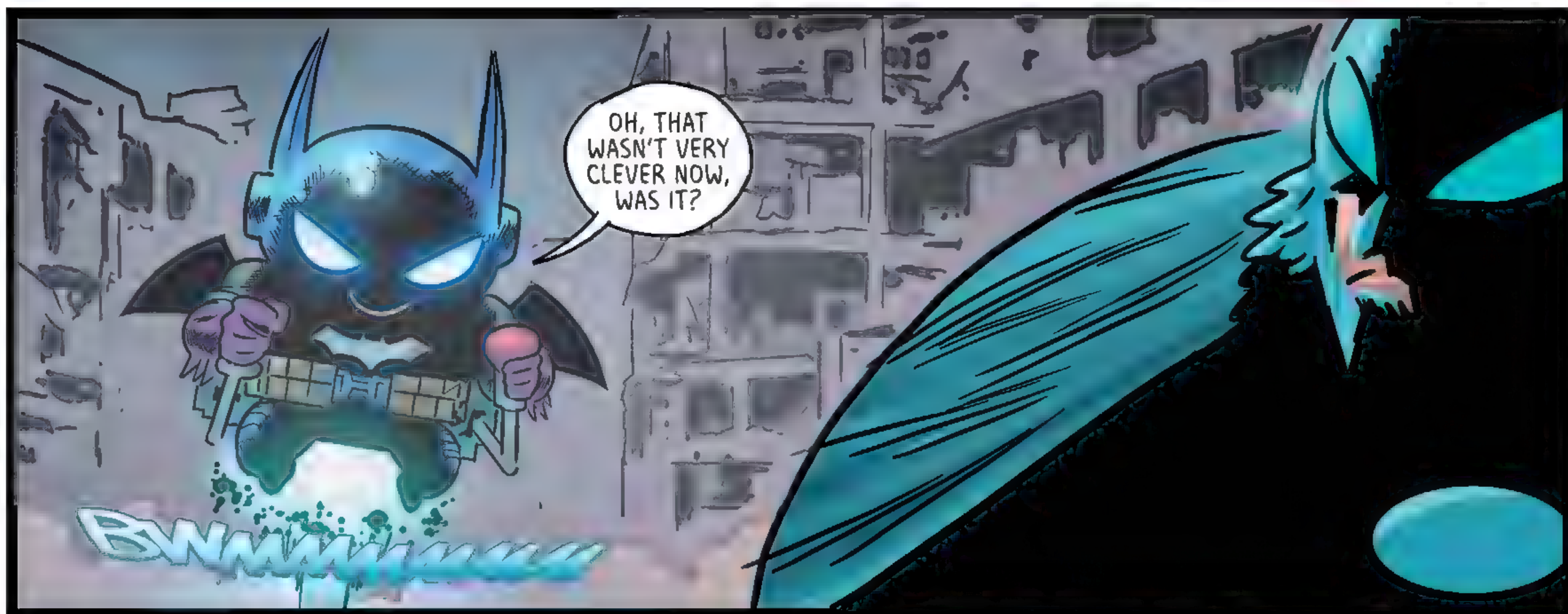
DON'T YOU SEE, JOHN? I HAVE EXISTED IN *EVERY* ITERATION OF OUR MULTIVERSE! IF *IT* SURVIVES, THAT MEANS *I* SURVIVE!



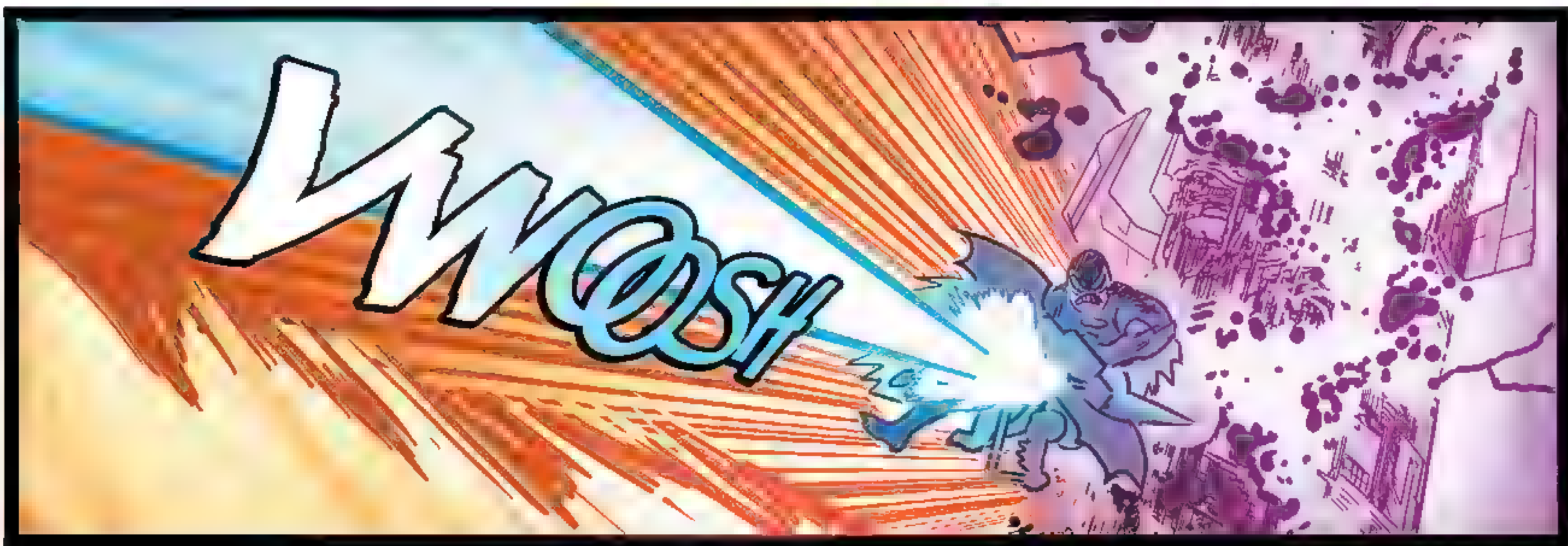




BATS
AREN'T
WELCOME
ON
EARTH-3.



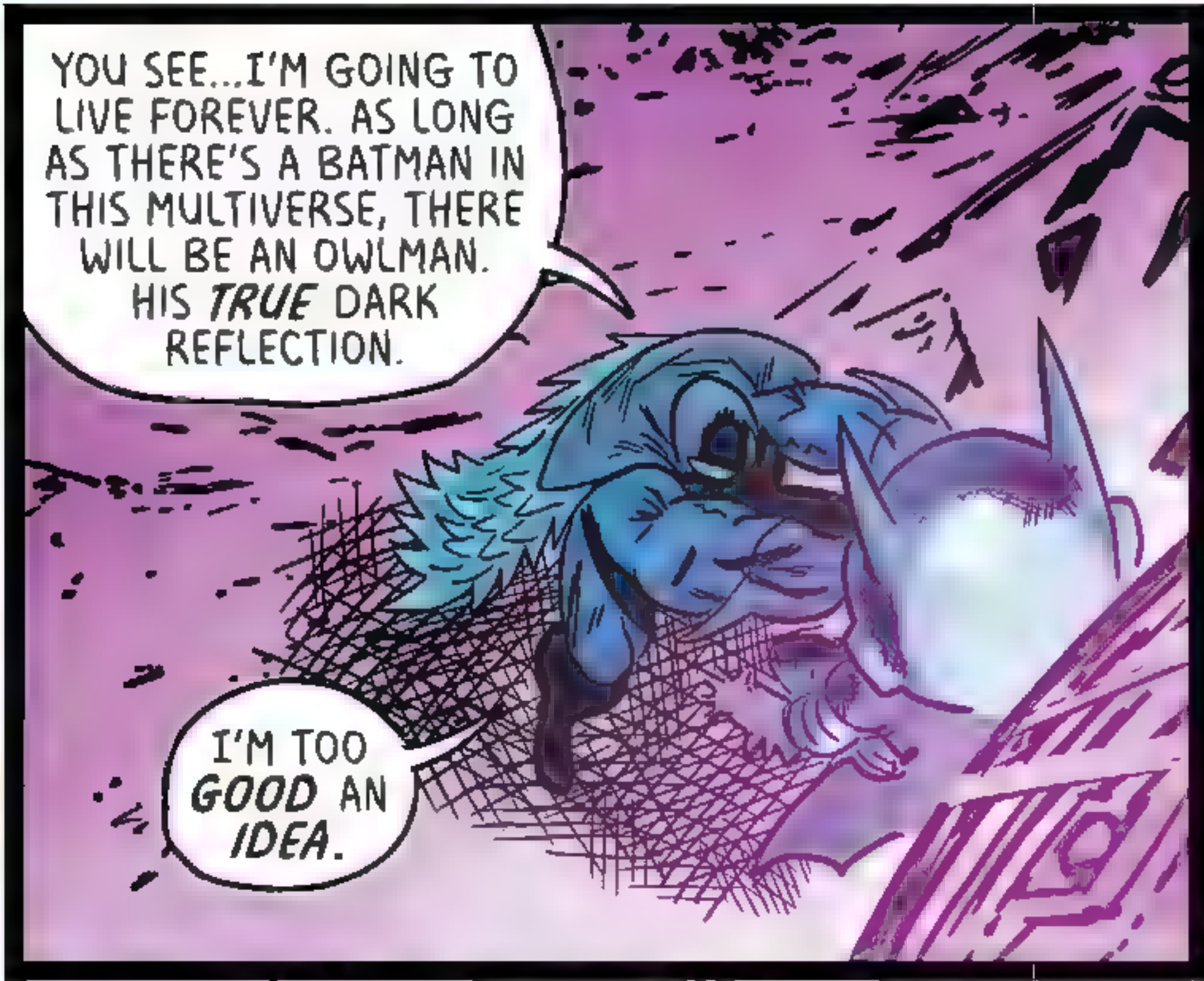




STOP SMILING.
YOU'RE ABOUT
TO DIE. YOU
DON'T GET TO
ENJOY IT!



YES I
DO.

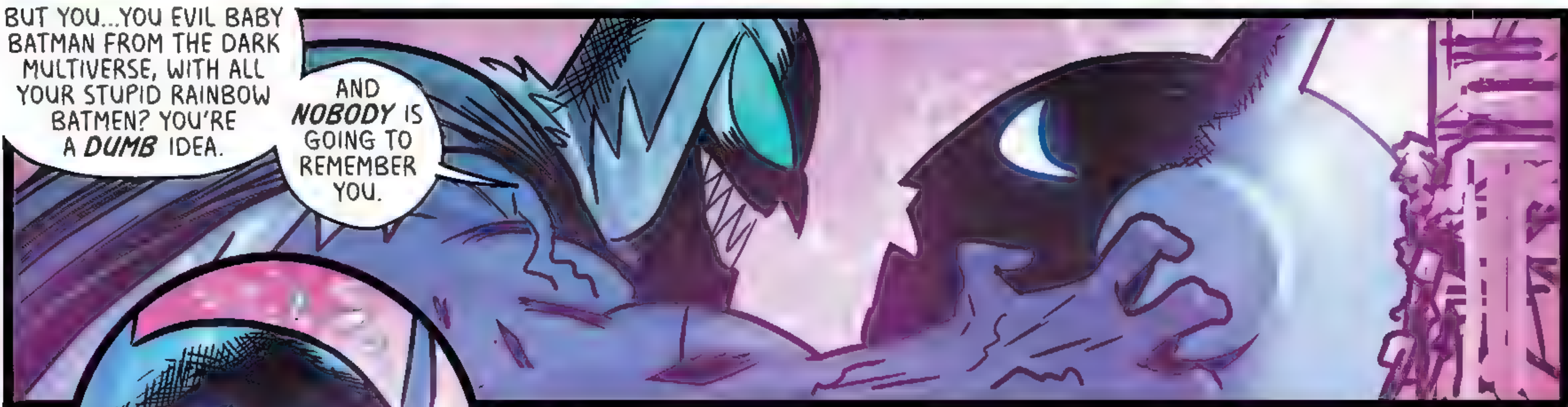


YOU SEE...I'M GOING TO
LIVE FOREVER. AS LONG
AS THERE'S A BATMAN IN
THIS MULTIVERSE, THERE
WILL BE AN OWLMAN.
HIS TRUE DARK
REFLECTION.

I'M TOO
GOOD AN
IDEA.

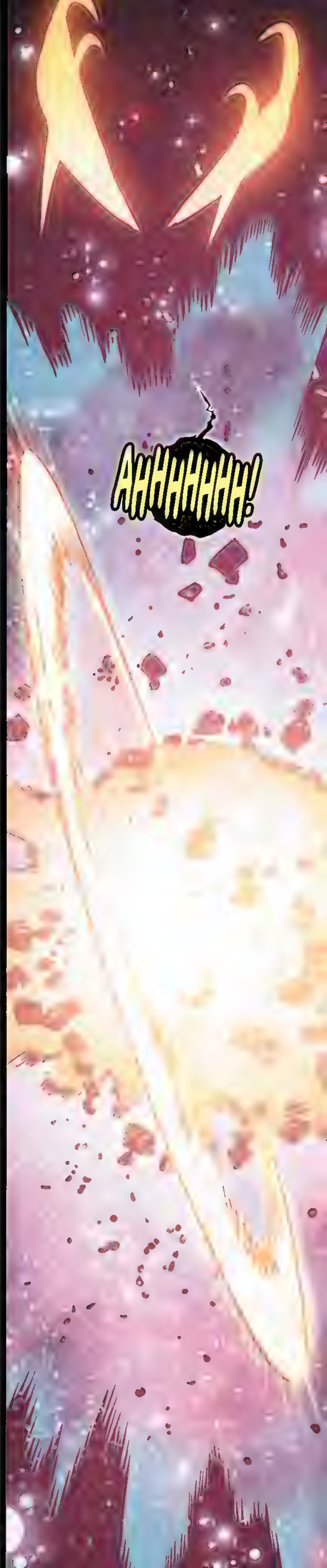
BUT YOU...YOU EVIL BABY
BATMAN FROM THE DARK
MULTIVERSE, WITH ALL
YOUR STUPID RAINBOW
BATMEN? YOU'RE
A DUMB IDEA.

AND
NOBODY IS
GOING TO
REMEMBER
YOU.



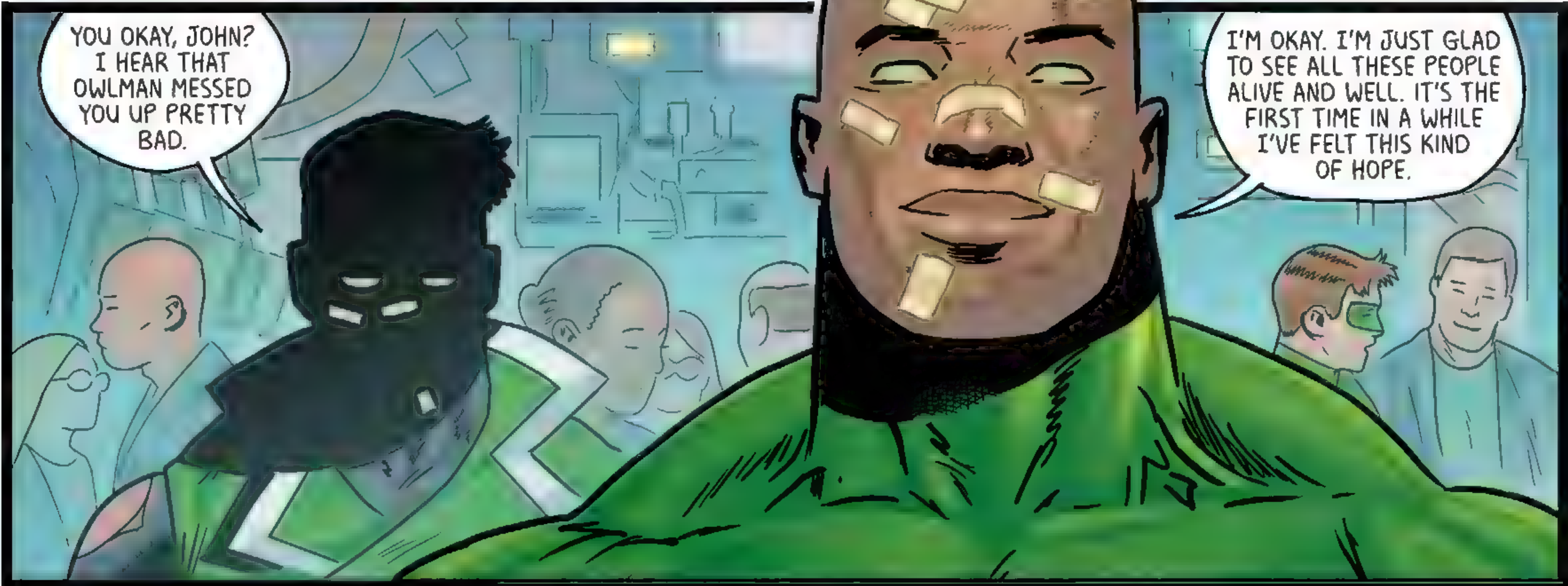
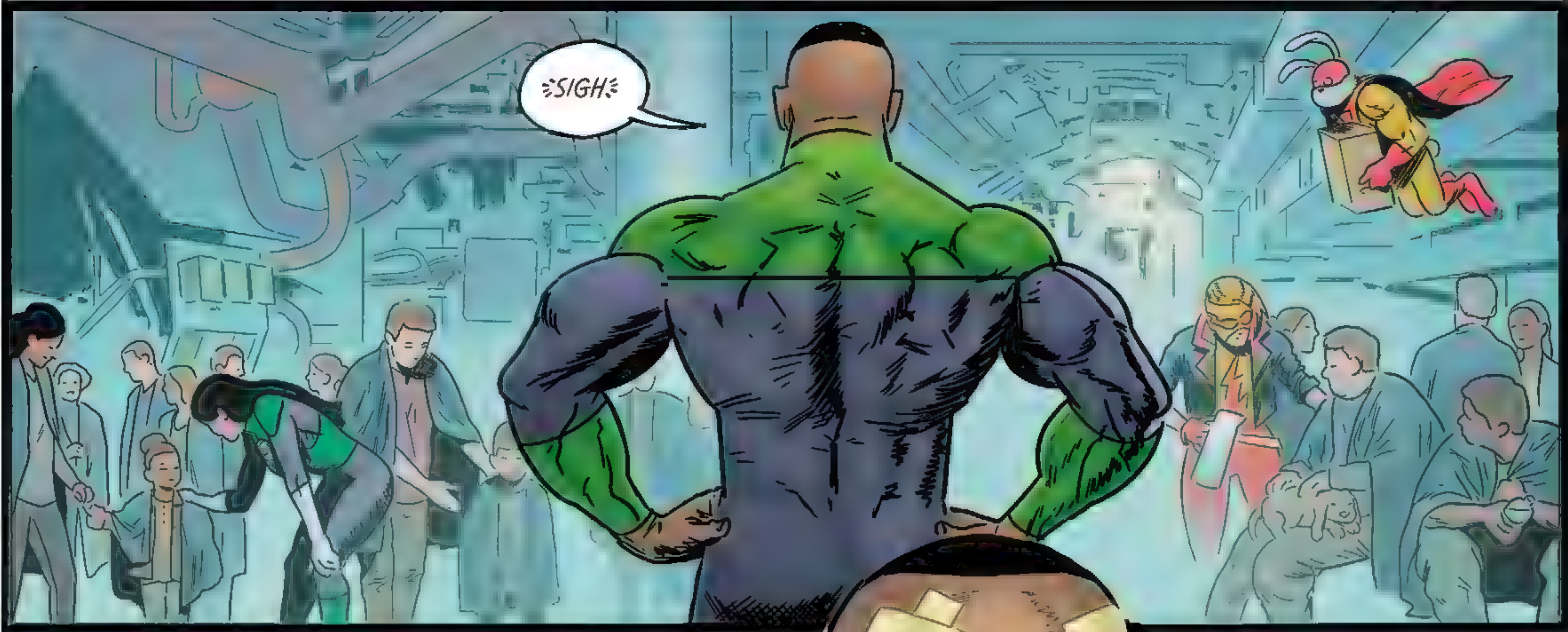
PLEASE...
I'M JUST A
WIDDLE...

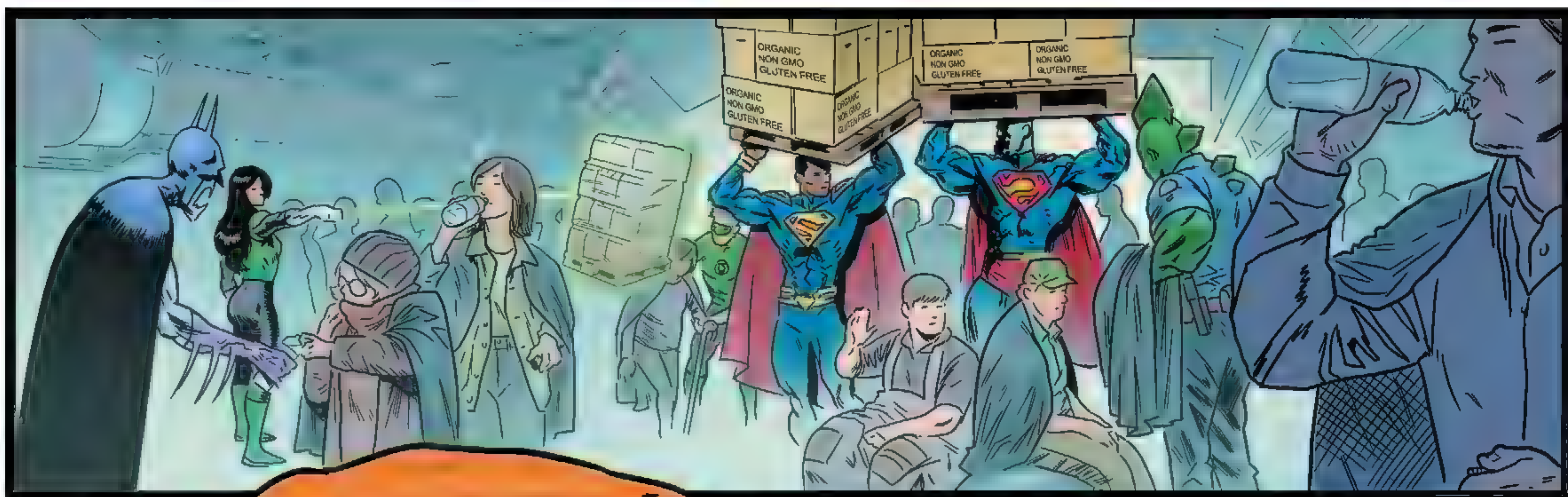
KRAKAKOOWWWWWWWW



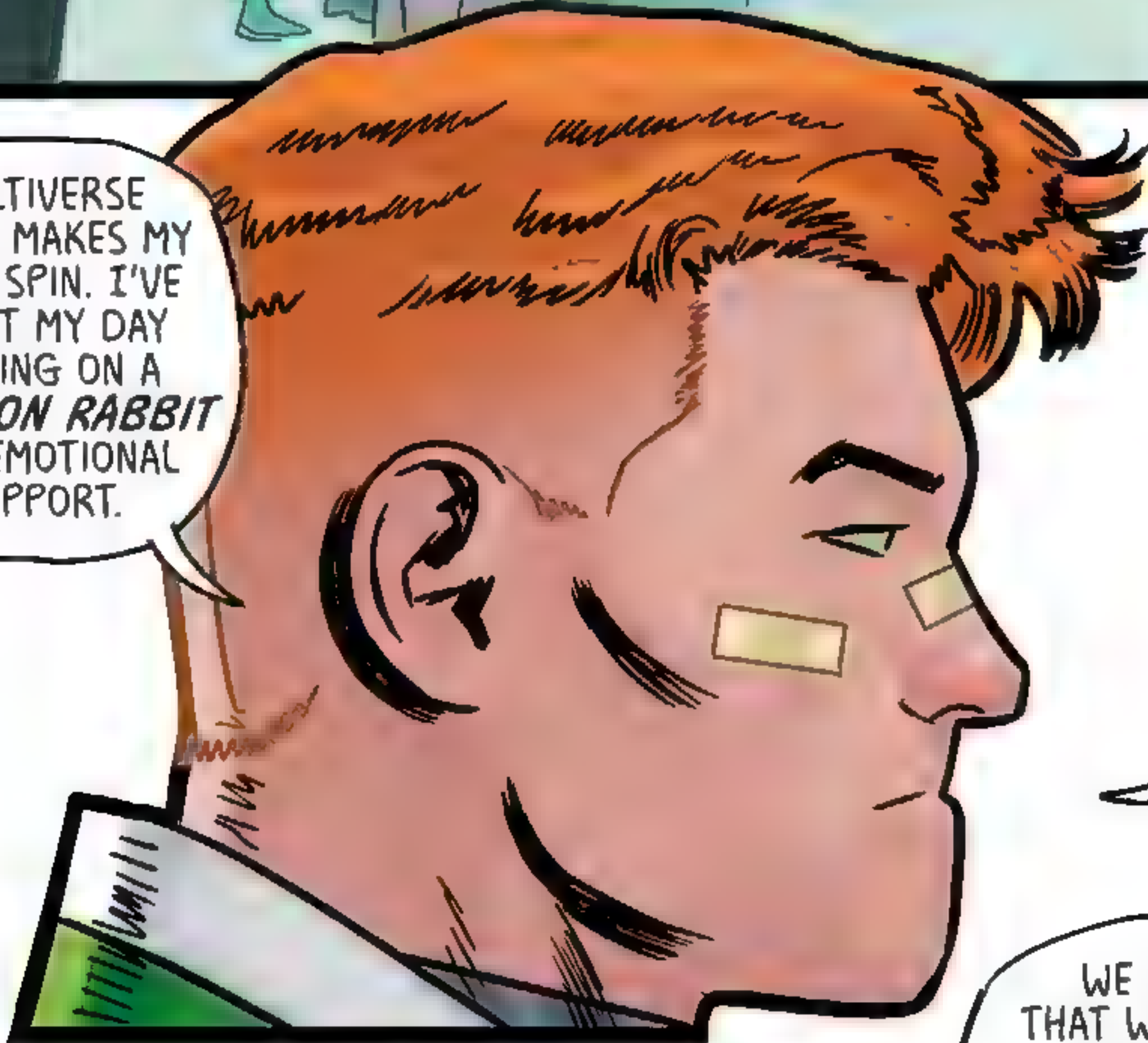


**THE BLEED.
THE CARRIER.**





MULTIVERSE STUFF MAKES MY HEAD SPIN. I'VE SPENT MY DAY RELYING ON A **CARTOON RABBIT** FOR EMOTIONAL SUPPORT.



CAPTAIN CARROT. GREAT GUY.

YEAH.

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH ALL THESE HEROES?



WE HAVE TO HOPE THAT WHEN WE FIX THIS, THEIR WORLDS WILL RETURN...BUT IF NOT, WE'LL FIGURE SOMETHING OUT. MAYBE SOME OF THEM WILL STAY WITH US, ON OUR EARTH. HELP US REBUILD.



JOHN. GUY...I HAVE NEWS.

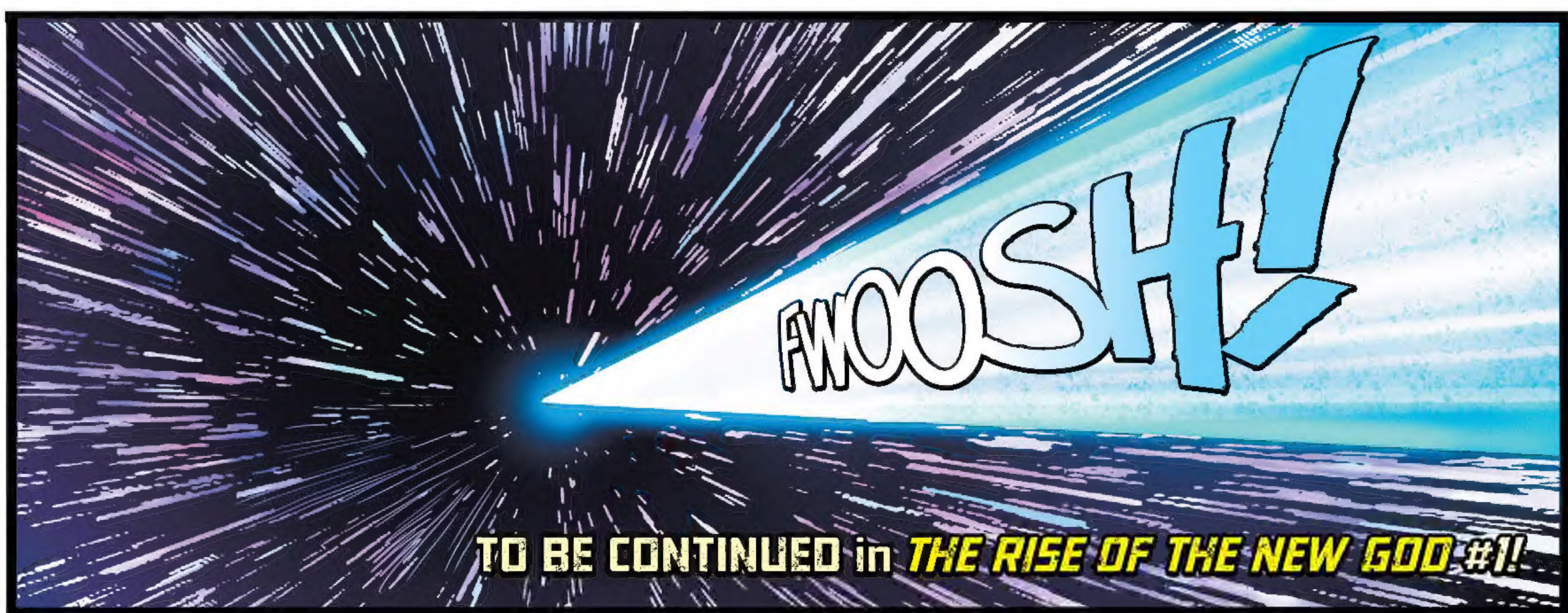
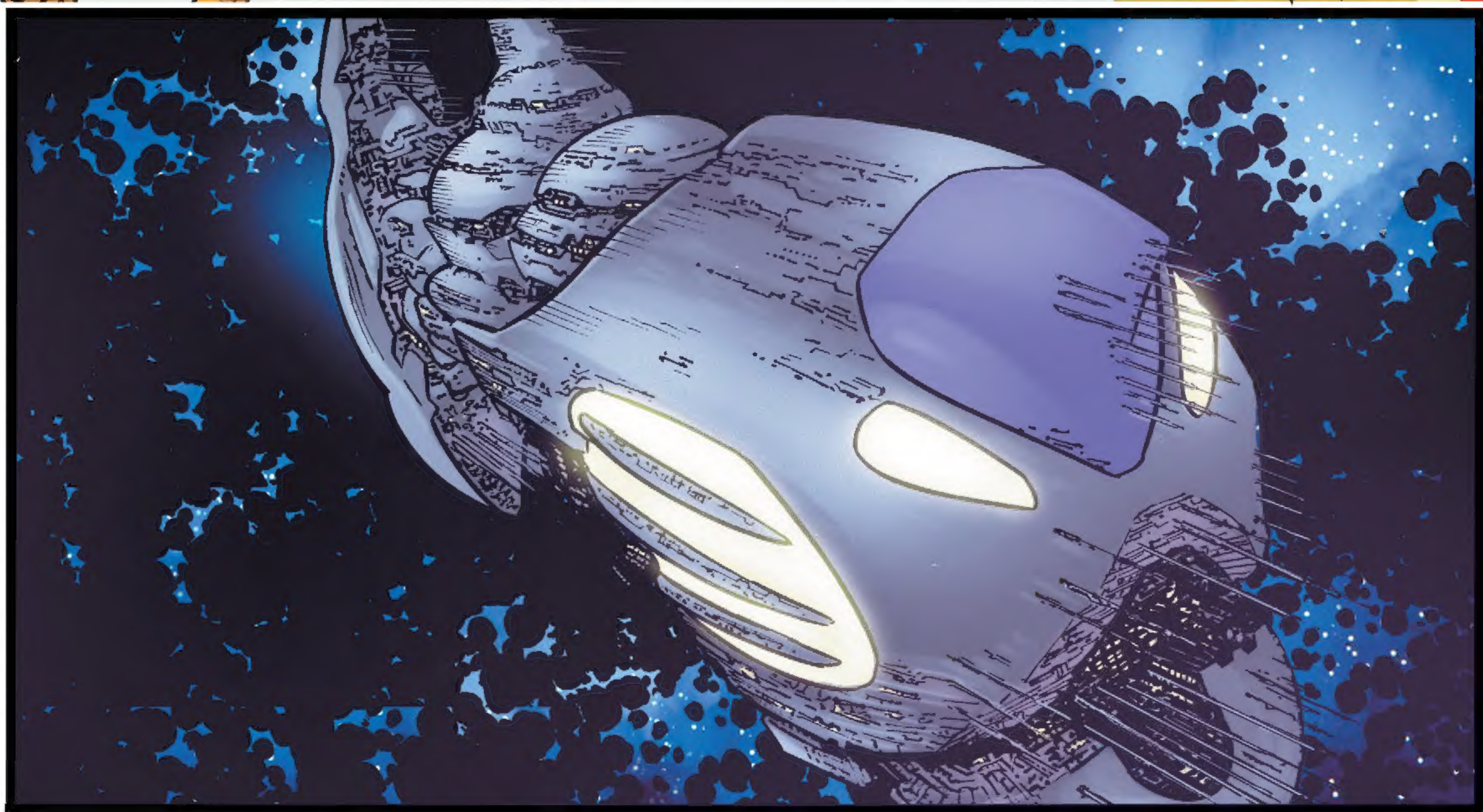
ALL THE TOWERS ARE DOWN. PERPETUA'S BATTERIES HAVE JUST BEEN REMOVED.



OKAY, GOOD.

NOW LET'S HOPE EVERYONE BACK ON OUR WORLD WAS AS LUCKY AS US.

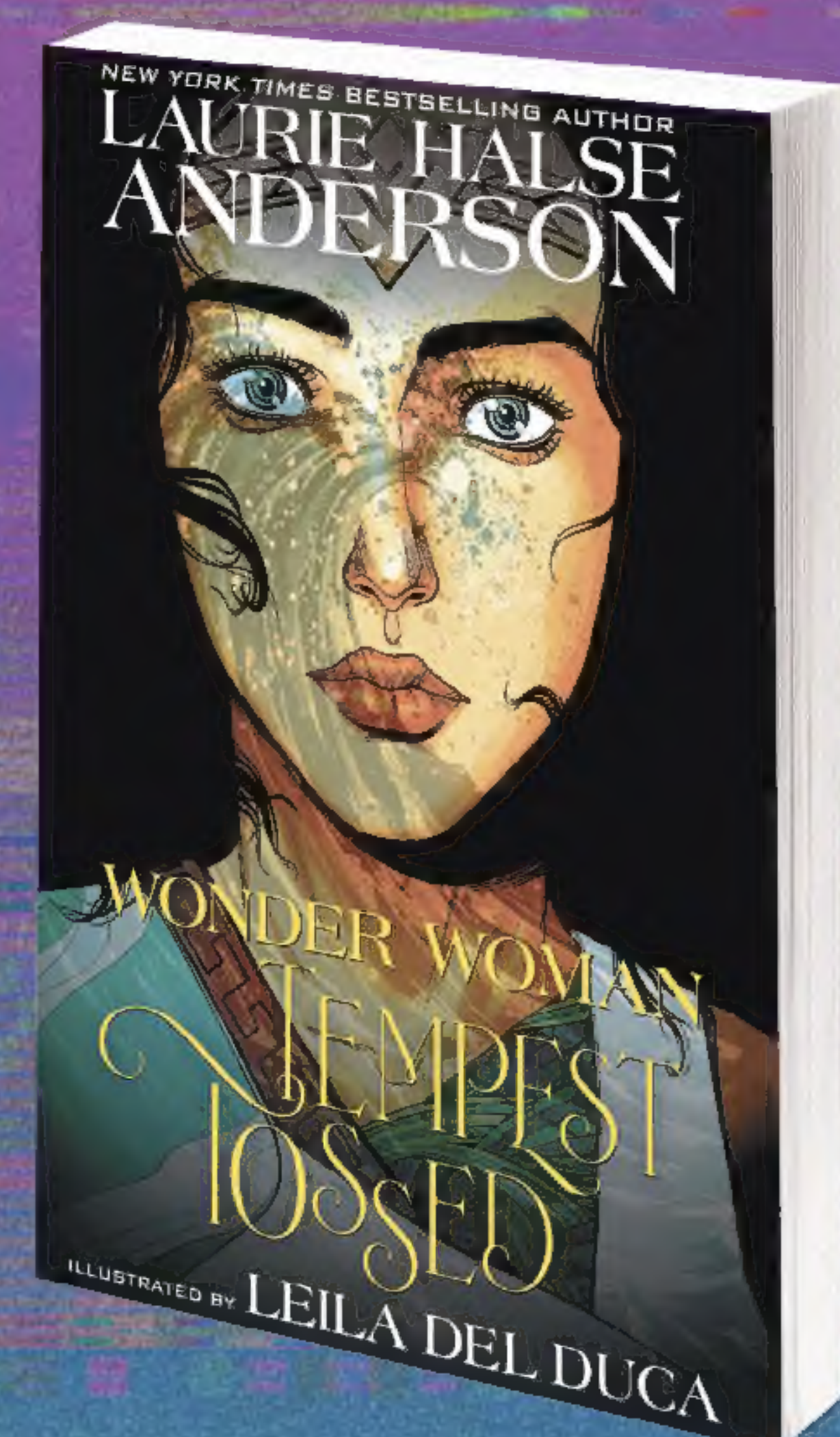
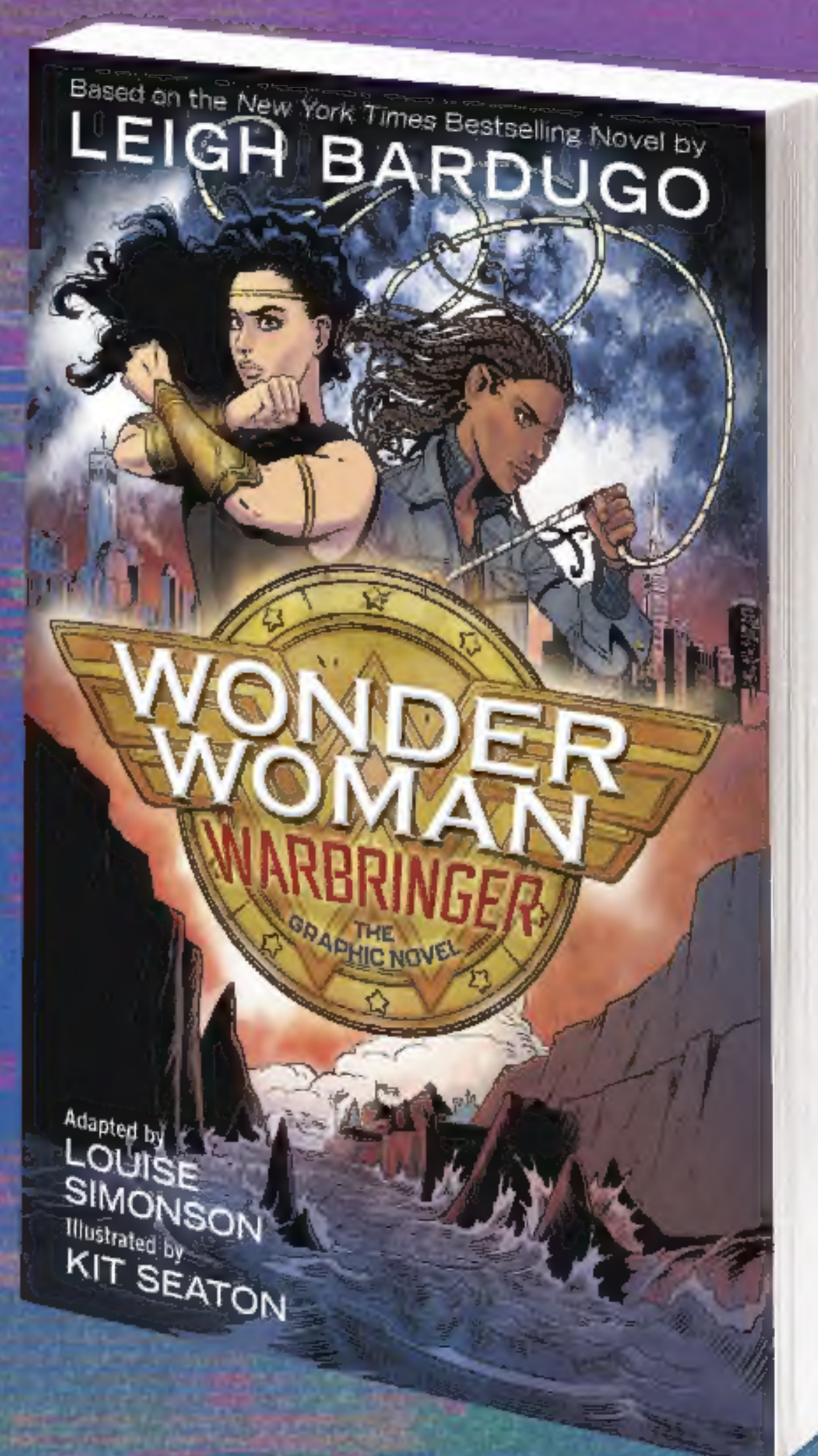




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DARK NIGHTS **DEATH METAL** SOUNDTRACK

INTERVIEW WITH TYLER BATES

Dark Nights: Death Metal truly rocks the way the title suggests thanks to Tyler Bates. For those who don't know, Bates has produced soundtracks for movies like *300* and *John Wick*.



So, in partnership with Loma Vista Recordings, the musician and composer has executive produced a soundtrack for *Death Metal* featuring artists including Marilyn Manson, Rise Against, Chelsea Wolfe, and Denzel Curry plus an original score showcasing dialogue from the series.

DC Nation talked with Bates about turning up the volume on *Dark Nights: Death Metal*.

What is it about the work of Scott Snyder and Greg Capullo that you find musically inspiring?

The tone of how Scott writes the DC characters is an evolution to how they have been framed in past DC comics and movies alike. I am being introduced to aspects of these classic characters for the first time, which is fun and exciting. The perspective, detail, and color choices of Greg's illustrations are incredibly evocative.

Scott and Greg inspired me to create music that is a departure from what you might anticipate. No wild idea is off the table! And more than ever, it feels good to be part of something that is the highest echelon of the genre.

How did you approach creating the score and working with the voice actors?

I'm sculpting the sound and music to support and complement the distinct vocal performances each person contributes to this series. I'm aspiring to create the essence of an old radio show, but with a dark and progressive sound that I imagine would register as a sign of the Apocalypse, had someone heard anything like this at the time these characters were first born.

I've encouraged each voice actor to create their own interpretation of the characters. We have Andy Biersack of Black Veil Brides voicing Batman, David Hasselhoff as Superman, and the list goes on.

What was your strategy in selecting artists for the soundtrack?

My prerequisite: everyone has to love the comics and the characters. [Laughs] I feel that the only way to create this soundtrack and animatic series is to approach it with complete authenticity. Every song on the soundtrack is directly inspired by *Dark Nights: Death Metal*.

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The Last Kryptonian-DCP

